

Equine assisted therapy refers to therapy provided by a licensed healthcare professional who includes horses and/or horse interaction as a treatment strategy or tool.

We have teamed up with Forsyth Ranch Arena (located on Township Rd 120). This facility offers outdoor and indoor riding facilities and knowledgeable horse handling staff.

Contact us

Speech & Language Works Inc
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Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0H4
403.580.3804

Visit us on the Web:
www.speechlw.ca

“SLW have not only helped develop our son’s speech but they have been an invaluable source of information regarding funding, resources and new therapies, such as hippotherapy” – N.L.

“I am so thankful for this program. My daughter is an active little girl and the rhythmic motion of the horse gives her the opportunity to be “ready” to learn. She is working on her speech skills through fun and motivating activities provided by the SLP but she is also provided with sensory input to regulate her body along with strengthening her core. I know if it wasn’t for this program she wouldn’t be where she is today.” – K.M.

**Equine Assisted
Speech
Language
Therapy**





Equine assisted therapy (also known as Hippotherapy) refers to OT, PT, and SLP professionals use of evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning in the purposeful manipulation of equine movement as a therapy tool to engage sensory, neuromotor, and cognitive systems to promote functional outcomes.

Speech & Language Works offers equine assisted speech therapy as part of an overall treatment plan. Participation is determined on a case to case basis. Clients who could benefit from equine assisted speech therapy may include:

- Articulation delays and disorders
- Receptive and expressive language delays
- Social communication
- Apraxia of Speech
- Stuttering (fluency disorders)
- Voice issues (e.g., breath support, volume, vocal abuse and misuse)
- Down Syndrome
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Auditory Processing Disorder
- Developmental Delays
- Cognitive communication difficulties resulting from stroke, brain injury, or degenerative diseases

At SLW we offer 45-minute equine assisted therapy sessions.

A typical therapy session includes:

- The client, therapist, horse leader and side walker
- The therapist and side walker walk alongside the child for safety
- Sitting on a bareback pad with no reins or straps to hold
- Changing the movement of the horse for therapeutic benefit
- Changing the client's position on the horse (e.g., forward, backward, side sitting)
- Participating in ground activities with the horse (e.g., brushing)
- Participating in mounted activities targeting speech and language goals



