



AHEAD WITH HORSES INC.

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www.AWHLA.org Tax ID#: 95-3165603

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Our son has been coming to AHEAD With Horses for about a year and a half. We started coming at the recommendation of our son's physical therapist, who spoke highly of the program and thought it would help him build core strength. We've definitely seen that benefit- but as our son progressed from needing regular physical therapy and got stronger, we stopped PT but kept coming "for horses". We saw many other regulating benefits for our son. The environment is calm, save the arrant motorcycle, and the instructors are patient and kind, as are the volunteers. Rarely have we seen the kind of normalizing or demanding interactions that our son, as an autistic child, experiences elsewhere. No one demands eye contact or stops him from singing his favorite song or talking about numbers. They seem to realize, as we do, that these are simply parts of who we are- not flaws to be corrected. They are rewarded with an engaging smile (and eye contact that people forget only happens with comfort, not with demands). And they are rewarded with lots of questions about his favorite topic, which is the highest form of flattery. We just wanted to give a special thanks to Gianna, his usual instructor, and possibly one of the kindest, most patient people I've met.

Mom to A.M. (preferred to stay anonymous), age 5 ½