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Newsletter 2013 - 2014

Horse'n Around

A GREAT READ

Tips to encourage reading as a family

Strategies for parents to foster literacy skills in their children and strengthen their own literacy skills along the way:

• Ensure your child knows that how well they read or write has nothing to do with their intelligence. Every person is intelligent in their own way and each person is unique and needs to learn in the way that best suits them. With practice, your child will become a good reader.

• The television can be used as a tool. After your child watches a television show or an episode, talk to them about it. Ask them questions like, "What was your favourite part?" or "What was the episode trying to teach the audience?"



This reinforces media literacy skills, a medium that is encompassing our lives today.

"Have your child read the lyrics to their favourite song."

• Don't lose sight of the fact that children model behaviour they see. Ensure that your

child sees you reading, whether it's the newspaper, the mail or a recipe. This shows your child how important it is to read.



• While reading a story to your child, pause to ask them what they predict will happen next or have them summarize what has happened in the story thus far. Good readers think about what they are reading and this will reinforce critical thinking skills.

• Today's children, particularly teens, are influenced by music. Have your child read the lyrics to their favourite song. When your child hears the song, they will visualize the lyrics they read. Visualization is a reading skill and this helps develop the skill.

• All reading is good reading. If your child is a reluctant reader, allow them to read comics, a graphic novel, a magazine or an instruction manual for their favourite sport.

They will be introduced to new words, sentence structure, and they will engage their brains with new ideas and information. ■



Family ...

THICK AND THIN approach. Members of the family need to know they will stick together through “thick and thin” life issues. Families all have trying times, but strong families manage to face those times as a team. There must be a commitment to the family unit. The old adage, one for all... all for one, is the best approach to keep the group together.

KEEP TALKING factor. Communication is the key to success. As I have always said, “I flunked Mind Reading 101.” So often, we share a living environment, but find we don’t talk to one another. Strong families find ways to express individual concerns, offer each other support, listen to each other, and solve problems together.

RECOGNIZE CONTRIBUTIONS. A simple approach that works is the magic words, “thank you.” So often we extend strangers our gratitude and forget to say “thanks” to our loved ones. Members of a strong family show appreciation to one another on a regular basis. Making the assumption that our family members just naturally know they are appreciated is a mistake. Take the time to recognize one another’s contributions.

SPEND TIME TOGETHER. Prioritize spending time talking, being quiet, playing and even disagreeing. Go to school functions, have problem solving discussions, organize family events and make family together time an important part of daily life.

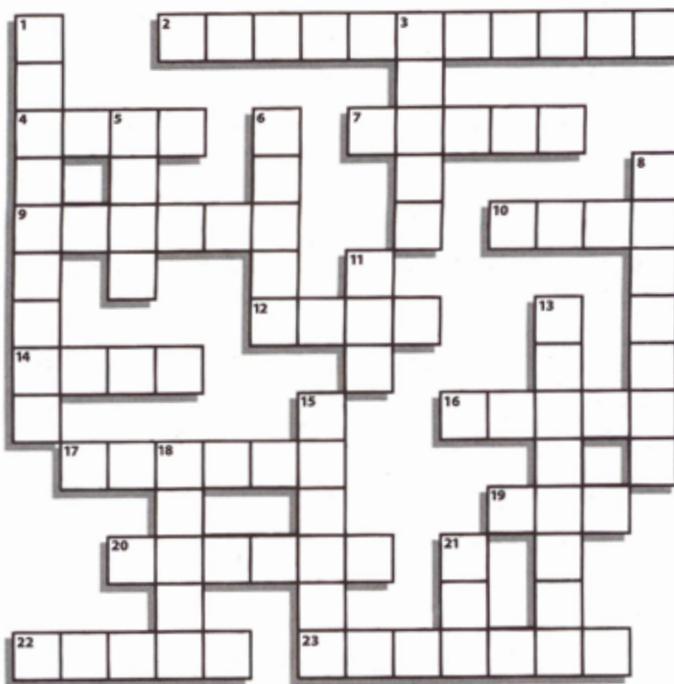
DEAL WITH STRESS. Families who can cope with stress pull together, ask for help and grow through crisis. Not all families cope with stress in the same ways, but surviving stressful times is key in keeping a family strong.

Have a sense of **SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.** A belief in a higher power, demonstrating ethical behavior, having faith in others, being loyal and developing emotional well-being is necessary. ■



A Sweep through the Barn

The clues to this crossword puzzle refer to all types of things you’re likely to find in and around a stable. ■



Across

2. Cart you fill when you clean a stall.
4. Name for saddle, bridle, etc.
7. Cloth used to wipe down a horse.
9. Basic headgear a horse wears.
10. Used to spread shavings and smooth dirt.
12. Riding aid.
14. Used to lead a horse.

16. Oats, barley, corn.

17. Holds water for a horse to drink.
19. Part of the bridle.
20. What a rider sits on.
22. Has a mane and tail.
23. Bedding that’s very absorbent.

Down

1. Used to lift and throw hay.
3. Used to sweep the tack room.
5. A male foal.

6. Bedding that looks like hay.

8. Newspaper, sand, peanut hulls, etc.
11. Something grain is stored in.
13. Wood products used for bedding.
15. Individual enclosures inside a barn.
18. Leather riding apparel.
21. Placed under a saddle



A NEW PROGRAM ...

Family Reading Therapy

Designed to bring families together and support each other in working with challenged reader(s) ... children or adults. This program is a series of four separate sessions, reading to the horses and participating in various activities. The participants can be 1 child and 1 adult or 2 adults (parents or guardians) and as many children as are within the family (maximum of 4 "kids"). Ideal for the challenged reader, autistic child or child with learning disabilities. Contact Gary Millar for more information 780 499 9219 or email at gary.millar@arabianhorsereading.com



You're probably horse crazy if:

You'd rather muck out a stall than clean your room.

You've read every horse book in the library—how many times?

You secretly like the smell of manure.

You think every field would look better with a horse in it.

Your first word was "pony" and your second word was "faster"!

Your mom says "this room looks like a stable!" and you take it as a compliment.

You draw horses in the margins of your homework.

When you grow up you're going to be an Olympic rider/veterinarian/horse artist/horse breeder/horse trainer/groom—oh heck, you're going to be a horse! ■

Hungry as a Horse

Hidden in the block of letters is a smorgasbord of horse treats. See if you can find and circle all 14 of them (they are printed in all directions, even diagonally). Some letters are used more than once. When you're done, print the leftover letters, in order, in the spaces below, and you'll find out what else horses need their fill of. ■

	M	S	H	A	L	F	A	L	F	A
ALFALFA										
APPLES	O	O	T	B	R	S	E	C	S	P
BARLEY										
BRAN	L	N	E	E	A	O	A	T	S	P
CARROTS	A	Y	E	D	L	R	N	P	L	L
CLOVER										
CORN	S	A	E	N	R	L	L	R	T	E
GRASS										
HAY	S	H	Y	O	S	O	E	E	O	S
MOLASSES	E	F	T	S	C	V	N	P	Y	C
OATS										
PELLETS	S	S	A	L	O	R	A	G	U	S
SALT										
SUGAR	L	R	E	L	A	A	R	N	W	A
	G	T	C	E	R	S	B	T	O	O

Answer:

----- !

Trifon Note Cards

Enjoy sending handwritten messages to your friends and family on these high quality, black and white, hand drawn note cards. They come in packages of 10, complete with envelopes.

Some school classrooms are selling these as a way of paying for their experience with the horses.

For more information in getting involved with this Note Cards Fundraiser, contact Gary Millar 780 499 9219 or gary.millar@arabianhorsereading.com

Watch for Limited Edition Art Prints of this same amazing black and white pencil drawing. These will be available in the Spring of 2014.

A special program for fund raising will be announced in January of 2014. ■

To find the solution of these puzzles or to check out more exciting games and activities, check out the Arabian Horse Reading Project website at www.arabianhorsereading.com ■



Useful Links

ARABIAN HORSE ANGEL WINGS PROJECT To provide a safe & comfortable special place for 'kids' and their families to visit and



experience extraordinary, quality of life moments with live horses and animals in conjunction with their medical treatment, while facing chronic and life threatening issues.

www.arabianhorsereading.com ■





Read to Trifon, the Arabian stallion

arabianhorsereading.com

Photo by Robin Szala



DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES.COM It is a new, private initiative to provide high impact and effective "outreach", attracting new people to become involved in the Arabian horse community, take riding lessons and join clubs.

www.discoverarabianhorses.com ■



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION (AHA) provides an association of like-minded Arabian horse enthusiasts and a focal point for your favorite recreational or competitive activities. AHA is the official breed association and registry in the U.S. with more than 40,000 members who own Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses. www.arabianhorses.org ■

The ABC's of Family Literacy

Developed by the Centre for Family Literacy with support from the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy, Community Programs, Alberta Government.

- A** ct out a story with your child.
- B** abies enjoy looking at pictures with bright colours and faces.
- C** onnect what happens in the book to your child's life.
- D** ecide to make time to share a book with your child every day.
- E** ncourage your child to tell you about their drawings.
- F** ind comfortable places to read.
- G** o for a walk and talk about the signs along the way.
- H** elp your child build language by singing, rhyming and talking every day.
- I** nclude everyone in sharing family stories.
- J** ump in and play with your child.

- K** eep TV time to no more than one hour a day.
- L** et your child see you reading and writing.
- M** ake a batch of cookies and count how many there are.
- N** ewborns benefit from reading too.
- O** pen a book and make up a story using just the pictures.
- P** lay a game together.
- Q** uestions your child asks help them learn.
- R** ecognize and reward your child's early attempts at reading and writing.
- S** cribbles are the first step in becoming a writer.

.....

“Helping everyone learn the alphabet quickly, efficiently and enjoyably.”

- T** ell your child stories about your day.
- U** se events that happen every day to teach your child about the world.

Party

Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Birthday Parties

Come enjoy your birthday party with your four-legged friends.

Treat your guests to a party that is unique.

For more information contact Gary Millar at gary.millar@arabianhorsereading.com or 780 499 9219

- V** isit your local library and let your child choose a book.
- W** rite a letter or a shopping list together.
- X** pect your child to be active. Count how many times they can hop or jump.
- Y** our child loves to hear you talk, sing and read with him.
- Z** zz – a good time to read can be just before bed. ■

For further information

The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project is an innovative, experiential learning program—Equine Assisted Learning. This program is committed to motivating children to want to read, enhancing their literacy skills and developing their confidence in reading.

It is an amazing adventure for the children to enjoy the opportunity to read to the horses and experience the exhilaration and joy of spending time with these amazing non-judgmental teachers. *“It is important to teach children to read, but we haven't achieved anything if children know how to read ... but don't!”*

To register for a session or for more information about “The Kids are Reading to the Horses”

Gary Millar
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www.arabianhorsereading.com

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WHO'S READING TO THE HORSES?

- pre-school 'kids'.
- pre-school 'kids' - en français.
- grade 1 and 2 'kids'.
- grade 4 'kids'.
- junior high 'kids'.
- family therapy sessions for challenged reader(s).
- boys and girls clubs, i.e. cubs, beavers, brownies.
- birthday party groups.