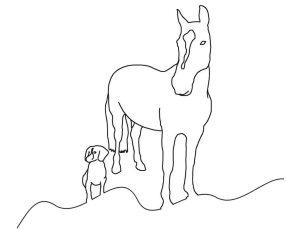


The Little Hut Under the Big Tree (Georgie's EAQ)

Information for Funding Providers



About Us

The Little Hut Under the Big Tree CIC (Georgie's EAQ) is an equine assisted learning and wellbeing centre, offering one-to-one and group learning and wellbeing sessions. Through learner-led sessions, we offer experiential academic and vocational learning opportunities, as well as emotional wellbeing and mental health support, for children and young people who are finding difficulties in mainstream education or with their mental wellbeing.

Established in 2022, The Hut has supported a wide variety of young people and their families, using a non-judgemental, non-pressured, holistic environment and tailoring each session to the individual. This provision has worked successfully as a sole provision, as well as alongside part time schooling or tutoring, and as an interim provision between mainstream education and specialist education.

About Me

I started The Little Hut in 2022, after working at two other equine assisted learning centres prior to this. In this time, I have gained/met the following qualifications, certifications and legal requirements;

- Level 4 Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator
- British Horse Society Stage 2
- Level 3 Child Safeguarding
- Designated Safeguarding Lead Training (through Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Animal Welfare License (through Uttlesford District Council)
- Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator Insurance, with public liability up to £10million
- Enhanced DBS Check and registration with DBS update service
- Approved Centre Status from EAQ (Equine Assisted Qualifications), allowing me to offer nationally recognised qualifications through OCN London
- First Aid At Work (through St John's Ambulance, updated regularly)
- Mindfulness training
- Paediatric first aid course
- Suicide Awareness workshop (through Mind)
- BaHons degree in Criminology & Sociology
- Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills

Any of these can be viewed upon request.

Activities on Offer

As stated above, each session is learner-led and so this is a non-exhaustive list of the activities that are on offer. Where possible, almost any activity can be supported for the learner. These are some of our regular weekly activities;

Animal care activities

- Grooming the horses
- Groundwork sessions with the horses (walking them, lunging them, creating obstacle courses etc)
- Playing with the dogs
- Dog agility
- Dog grooming
- Yard tasks such as poo picking, mucking out, making up feeds, making hay nets, filling waters
- Cleaning out the chickens, collecting eggs and interacting with the chickens
- Animal enrichment activities such as taking them on a foraging walk, building them a fruit fishing rod, aromatherapy, massage skills

Trips in to the community and social skills

- Outings to the feed store for animal supplies
- Outings to practice social skills such as to a cafe
- Meeting with learners in the community, near their homes, when they feel unable to access the centre for reasons such as anxiety
- Trips out with other learners and facilitators for peer interaction for those lacking this elsewhere
- Trips to get resources for learner-led projects, such as to build a pond, or buy plants for the hanging baskets or vegetable plot

Nature based activities

- Making/filling bird feeders
- Nature walks and “treasure hunts”
- Walking the dogs
- Observing nature, looking for bugs/wildlife, bird spotting, researching nature and questions that naturally occur
- Building nature areas such as planting wildflowers, making a nature pond

Centre/farm maintenance

- Fixing/changing fencing
- Cleaning water buckets
- Arena maintenance
- Projects initiated by learners to improve the centre, such as gardening, or building new things for the animal enrichment

Therapeutic play

- Learner-led play
- Use of the swing
- Building dens
- Playing with the dogs

Art and Craft

- Drawing, painting, therapeutic colouring books
- Making crafts, use of glue gun
- Seasonal themed activities e.g. Easter, Christmas, seasons

Qualifications and Certificates

- Small internal certificates to recognise achievements such as learning to tie a quick release knot, identifying the markings on a horse, naming the grooming brushes
- Workbooks on topics such as self-awareness, confidence, comfort zones, as well as equine based topics such as breeds of horses
- Level 1 - Level 3 qualifications in topics covering a wide range, starting with Level 1 Developing Confidence Working with Animals up to Level 3 Certificate in Skills for Working with Animals, which covers a more in-depth understanding of animal care alongside employability skills such as time management, teamwork and study skills

Possible Points of Progression**Social, Emotional and Personal Development**

- Teamwork, working alongside other learners to ask for help and give help when needed, such as to pick out the horses' feet
- Relationship building, having opportunities to build positive new relationships with an adult in an educational setting
- Emotional regulation in a new situation, and using the horses and other animals to understand the effect our emotions can have on those around us
- Resilience in doing new and sometimes tricky tasks, such as tying knots, and being allowed the time and space to overcome this
- Developing confidence through the opportunity to try new things and to be given the time to succeed at them
- Fitness from being outside for an extended period, walking around and exercising new gross and fine motor skills involved in activities such as poo picking/mucking out and other yard jobs
- Positive emotional responses derived from being in nature and around animals

Animal Care and Vocational Learning

- Developing new skills
- Building an understanding of animal care principles
- Learning how to use new tools
- Creating an understanding of animal behaviour and body language
- Forming a strong bond /relationship with the horses and other animals, through developing an understanding of herd dynamics, body language, and non-verbal communication skills
- Helping with, and creating ideas to better the welfare of, the flock of chickens
- Completing certificates
- Real-life scenarios developing skills such as time-keeping, completing daily duties, using initiative, reporting issues

Academic Learning

- Opportunity to practice academic learning in a pressure free environment, as well as through "real life" tasks, allowing learners to build confidence
- Measuring, counting, through tasks such as building projects or mixing feeds

- Opportunity to read to animals to increase reading confidence
- Support with other learning topics, homework, or tutoring targets

For any further questions, or to arrange a visit please use the contact details below;

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