



**A Program of
Greater Atlanta Speech & Language Clinics, Inc.**

*For general program information and insurance and Billing information:
1000 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite A100
Marietta, GA 30068
(770) 977-9457 / (770) 977-5087 (fax)*

*3465 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd Suite A, Office C
Suwanee, G A 30024*

HIPPOTHERAPY PROGRAM GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

Dear Parents:

Welcome to our hippotherapy program! Rest assured that your child's safety comes first and foremost! We strictly abide by all NARHA regulations for safe and quality hippotherapy.

REQUIREMENTS:

The following information and prescriptions must be received before your child can begin participation in the hippotherapy program:

1. Completion of the new patient information packet (if you are not currently a client of GASLC, Inc.).
2. A copy of your child's most recent IEP or IFSP and most recent speech/OT evaluation and progress reports. (If you have not had a recent evaluation, you may be asked to have one through one of our clinics).
3. Two prescriptions from your child's doctor, one that prescribes "speech therapy" or "occupational therapy" (not hippotherapy) and a separate one that allows medical clearance for horseback riding or "hippotherapy".
4. For Down syndrome children, a statement of medical clearance for Atlantoaxial Stability.
5. Signed liability release form from the therapeutic riding center.

In addition, we request that you follow these guidelines to help us assure the best experience for your child:

GUIDELINES:

1. Please arrive ten minutes prior to your appointment, so we can begin on time.
2. Please dress your child appropriately – long pants and closed-toe shoes.
3. Please try not to bring siblings if at all possible. If you must, you will need to keep them quiet and far enough away so as not to distract your child’s therapy.
4. We have NARHA approved riding helmets for your use at the farm. It is strongly recommended that you get your child use to wearing a helmet of some type at home (this could be an inexpensive bicycle helmet) since this is usually our biggest obstacle on the first day. If you decide to continue hippotherapy for a reasonable period of time, it is preferred that you purchase your child his/her own approved riding helmet so it is always adjusted for a good, safe fit when you arrive. We will provide you with requirements and places to purchase a helmet.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- I. **Greater Atlanta Speech & Language Clinics, Inc.**, is happy to do direct billing for therapy fees to your approved medical insurance provider or Medicaid. This must be coordinated in advance with our business office.

Please assist us by checking with your insurance company to verify that you have coverage for “speech therapy” or “occupational therapy” benefits and their procedures for authorization of your benefits. (Please note: If you ask your insurance company or Medicaid if they cover “hippotherapy”, they will not at this time recognize it or cover it). Please provide us with the information you learned. We are preferred providers for Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Aetna, United Healthcare, Tri-Care-Standard, and Humana/ChoiceCare. We are also providers for Medicaid and Peachcare. We will need a legible copy of the front and back of your insurance card and/or Medicaid card.

If you have a co-pay associated with your insurance benefits, you will need to pay that amount each session or for the month in advance. If you do not have medical insurance or Medicaid/Peachcare coverage, the private pay fee for hippotherapy is \$65.00 per one-half hour session.

Notification of Cancellation is required in order not to be charged for a missed session. Please try to let the therapist know as far as in advance as possible about scheduled vacations, etc. In the case of a sudden illness, **please leave a recorded message at (770) 977-9457 (mailbox #1) the night before or by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the scheduled session.** The therapist will then inform the farm so that they will not get the horse ready for you. Also, please bear in mind that two volunteers are scheduled one to two days in advance for your

child's session. We must also have sufficient notice to cancel their time. And lastly, the therapist's time is valuable and she can readjust her schedule if advance notification is given.

II. Stable Fees:

The stable where Horse Talk is housed requires a "facility fee". This reserves your regularly scheduled time slot each week. It also covers the cost of the lease (use) of the horse for the therapy session, the use of the facility, and the costs involved in recruiting, training, and managing the volunteers needed to lead the horse and side walk for the child's safety. Please bear in mind that the hippotherapy horses are very expensive to support, (hay, grain, horseshoes, wormers, shots, vet, laborers', salaries, etc.) and that these horses are there expressly for Horse Talk.

The facility fee is \$100.00 per month for 30-minute sessions, once per week or \$150.00 per month for 45-minute sessions, once per week. Since many months have five weeks and many have three weeks, it averages out to four sessions per month over a year's time, as you can see on the enclosed example year. No credits will be able to be given for illnesses or vacations other than the vacations already allotted for in the sample program year, (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, and one week out of the summer. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to continuing to provide your child with a very high quality program. This fee is due on the first of each month that your child is enrolled in the program.

PLEASE NOTE: INSURANCE OR MEDICAID DOES NOT COVER STABLE FEES!

PLEASE NOTE: Please make checks payable to Green Acres Equestrian and leave them in the payment box at the farm. Please also remember that these costs run consistently throughout the year, (i.e. that the horses still have to be fed on Christmas!) Therefore, the stable fee must remain consistent each month.

A one-month's notice for withdrawal from the program is required in order to receive a refund of prepaid stable fees.

Please sign the attached agreement, separate, and return with your other enrollment paperwork. Please retain a copy of these Guidelines and Procedures for your reference.

Thank you for your cooperation! We look forward to a rewarding experience for your child.

Sincerely,

Joan Aronson, M.Ed., CCC
Director – *Horse Talk*

