

Who Created Horse Powered Reading?

Michelle Pickel, Ph.D.

HPR Founder, Equine Specialist

- Qualifications: Full Professor of Teacher Education at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota
- MN Licensed PreK-8 Teacher and K-12 Reading Specialist
- Early Childhood and Elementary School Classroom Teaching Experience
- EAGALA Equine Specialist Advanced Certification (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association)
- Author of Horse Powered Reading Curriculum: Activities for Arena and Classroom

Michelle Pickel, Ph.D., created EAGALA Model Horse Powered Reading Instruction in 2012, as an experiential strategy to help struggling readers not only learn missing reading skills, but also to assist them in overcoming the social-emotional challenges interfering with their learning.

Due to the success of Horse Powered Reading, and hoping to change the lives of children across the nation, Dr. Pickel developed an online class to teach other Mental Health Professionals, Equine Specialists, and Educators who would like to learn how to use Horse Powered Reading to help their clients and students.

What Can Horse Powered Reading Teach?

The use of experiential learning / Horse Powered Reading may include:

- Build decoding (phonics) skills and sight word recognition
- Enhance vocabulary development
- Read more quickly and accurately with expression (fluency)
- Overcome barriers blocking comprehension
- Practice positive study skills
- Comprehend text books
- Decode new, unfamiliar, and multi-syllable words
- Achieve higher order thinking
- Use critical and creative thinking
- Build confidence, persistence, perseverance and patience
- Learn self-advocacy skills (ask for help, "read" the horse, bonding)