

The Role of a Professional EAA/T Practitioner

The specific role of the practitioner is to support the learning outcomes and objectives of their clients who come to the Centre of work for EAA/T. Depending upon the method of teaching and learning for an individual or a group, the role of the practitioner will sometimes crossover from instructor to facilitator.

The practitioner must know and understand the common objectives of their work and be able to plan achievable therapeutic aims and objectives for each client.

The practitioner must have knowledge and an understanding of the horse or horses they are working with, in order to build a successful partner which will ensure a safe and positive EAA/T service.

Qualities of an Effective Practitioner:

- Knows about oneself, and why you want to teach EAA/T
- Builds a relationship with the client:
- Acts in a professional manner, is always conscientious about personal conduct, and assume responsibility for developing the client's riding program, facilitating the lessons and ensuring safety for client and horse
- Is a Role Model by dressing appropriately, interacting with EAA/T staff and horses in the appropriate manner?
- Is a resource for the rider. The practitioner helps riders to initiate ideas learn new skills and manage new tasks.
- Motivates the client in their learning-through the skill set of effective listening, observation, and providing objective and appropriate feedback.
- Is supportive towards clients and families in accordance with the policy of where you are working. If your Centre does not permit the sharing of confidential information with your riders' families – you will not do so.
- Maintains the ethics and core values of the EAA/T Centre at all times

Riding Lesson:

- Conducts a detailed Intake Interview with the client in order to understand the client and their concerns/issues
- Establishes EAA/T aims and goals for each client
- Prepares lesson plans that can achieve client aims and goals.

- Always consider the rider's effort and the learning outcomes and what it means for the rider
- Demonstrates timeliness and attendance for assigned responsibilities - lessons
- Demonstrates professional practices in teaching
- Demonstrates accurate and up-to-date knowledge of content
- Demonstrate professional attributes
- Stay current in professional knowledge and skills about the human-horse environment
- Demonstrates appropriate personal contact during the riding lesson
- Use correct, professional language, oral and written
- Maintain good records and observations that can be effectively used by someone substituting for you if you are absent.
- Takes precautions to protect rider's horses and equipment
- Be responsible when teaching in all setting – indoor, out of doors and in the classroom or farm area

Role and Relationship with Riding Centre:

- Follows professional practices consistent with EAA/T and its policies in working with riders, riders' records, parents, colleagues and medical insurances
- Demonstrates communication and interpersonal skills as they relate to interaction with riders, parents, other stakeholders—schools, medical insurances, bosses
- Maintains confidentiality of riders and riders' records
- Maintains lesson plans as required by farm policy, for instance, know if you are able teach in or outside of the arena, or whether you can walk out on the led rein or not
- Is team member
- Maintains core standards, but always be ready to learn more
- Complies with conditions as stated in your contract with the farm

Role and Relationship with the Horse

The horse is the centerpiece of any EAA/T session. The characteristics and quality of the horse determine the quality of the service provided. The practitioner must understand the horse in terms of its anatomy and kinesiology, nature and training. They must understand the effect it has on specific human conditions and know how to select the right horse for the client, in order to achieve the EAA/T aims and goals. The practitioner must always know what to ask from the horse to accomplish the task and how can they help the horse accomplish the task. The horse must be well trained in the basics for either English or Western riding and Vaulting or Carriage Driving.

Questions that should be considered when selecting the best horse for each client:

- Has the horse been trained to the level essential for the given task?
- Is the horse in condition to perform the task?
- Does the horse have a good temperament, and are they unflappable?
- Does the horse have difficulties carrying riders with poor balance and delayed reactions to movement?
- Is the horse trustworthy, predictable and free of disruptive traits?
- Is the horse focused and shows an interest in his work, enjoying attention?
- Is the horse willing to learn?
- Can they accept constant instruction, about position, carriage and stride length?
- Can they tolerate special equipment and unusual movement on their back?
- Is the horse's walk well balanced, regular rhythmic, and energetic?
- Are they able to walk with sufficient energy and round their back?
- Is the stride similar in length and frequency to that of a typical adult person?
- Can the horse move with various types of stimulation and aids from the riders?