

Holidays and Food (HAF) Programme Centre Case Study



Kingsleigh's Equine Education Centre Worcester Riding School, Worcester

About the centre

Kingsleigh's Equine Education Centre is based at Worcester Riding School which is located in the city centre. Worcester Riding School is proud to be a Pony Club centre and in 2008, the centre was invited to become a National Riding for the Disabled Centre.



The idea for Kingsleigh's was developed after realising spending time within the equine environment created an exceptionally positive response for children with disabilities. The centre carefully chooses ponies who will work well with those who have various disabilities and disorders, ensuring both they and the children can enjoy the times they spend together.

Affiliated with:



HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme

The centre has been running the HAF programme throughout the Christmas, Easter, and summer holidays to provide a space for children in and around the city of Worcester to have fun and be supplied with a nutritional meal each day. With 21 spaces available on the camp, the centre supports children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) as well as working with children from Ukraine.

Some of the activities the children took part in during the HAF days include:

- Stable and field maintenance to build **resilience** and **teamwork**
- **Therapy sessions** involving grooming and spending time with horses
- Leading ponies through an obstacle course, which helped build **self-esteem** and **confidence**
- Horse riding to develop **balance**, **technique**, **follow instructions**
- Racehorse simulator to give them all a chance to **try something new**
- CPR training to develop **life skills**
- Nutrition day to help children understand how to **eat well**



Kingsleigh's Equine Education Centre, in partnership with Worcester Riding School have been running the HAF programme since summer 2021. The centre is an out of classroom education provider using the horses and ponies with education and therapeutic intervention.

Both businesses based at the yard have been able to collaborate and assist with the HAF scheme due to each one's abilities to support the different needs of the various children and support many local families.

HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme

What they said...

"We have an amazing team working at the yard made up of highly experienced teachers and childcare professionals. We feel the success of the HAF programmes we have run is down to the level of senior and experienced staff we have on site." explains Deni Harper-Adams from Worcester Riding School.

"During the HAF schemes, we have very much encouraged the riding school Pony club children to help and support those on the HAF programme. This has certainly helped foster an ethos of inclusion, support and understanding of the HAF children's needs amongst the Pony Club children."



The centre has taken a child from each HAF programme cohort and given them much subsidised pony club activities and lessons going forward, ensuring the HAF programme continues with a legacy.



From jockey training to archery to carriage-driving: the children at Kingsleigh's got stuck into many activities throughout the summer programme.

