



New Equine-Assisted Learning Definitions

Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) is an experiential learning approach that promotes the development of life skills for educational, professional and personal goals through equine-assisted activities.

Passive participation is defined as non-contact interaction from an observational point of view where the human presence does not have a direct effect on the equine.

Active participation is defined as direct contact with the equine where the equine is being asked to interact with the participant and where the equine does not necessarily have a choice to disengage from the process or activity. The intention or purpose of the interaction between the equine and participant also has a consideration in this definition.

Life Skills includes a broad array of competencies, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO)¹ in collaboration with the United Nations, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):

Life skills education is aimed at facilitating the development of psychosocial skills that are required to deal with the demands and challenges of everyday life. Following the study of many different life skills programs, the WHO Department of Mental Health identified five basic areas of life skills that are relevant across cultures:

- Decision-making and problem-solving;
- Creative thinking and critical thinking;
- Communication and interpersonal skills;
- Self-awareness and empathy;
- Coping with emotions and coping with stress

Facilitation- The act of providing indirect or unobtrusive assistance, guidance, or supervision through an experiential learning environment to groups or individuals to bring about a specific outcome related to growth in a defined area.

¹ WHO (1999), *Partners in Life Skills Training: Conclusions from a United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting*, Geneva

Facilitator- Is a person with specific training and skills to help groups and individuals bring about an outcome (such as learning, growth, or communication) by providing indirect or unobtrusive assistance, guidance, or supervision through an experiential learning environment.²

Teaching/Instruction- To cause or help (a person or animal) to learn how to do something by giving lessons, showing how it is done, etc

Equine Professional is defined as a professional who satisfies the equine knowledge and skills as outline in the EAL competencies. This can include a PATH certified professional in another area other than EAL.

Learning Professional is defined as a professional who satisfies the knowledge and skills as outlined in the EAL competencies.

Dually-Qualified Professional is defined as a professional who comes with expertise as both an Equine and Learning Professional.

Differentiated Instruction and assessment (also known as differentiated learning or, in education, simply, differentiation) is a framework or philosophy for effective teaching that involves providing different students with different avenues to learning (often in the same classroom) in terms of: acquiring content; processing, constructing, or making sense of ideas; and developing teaching materials and assessment measures so that all students within a classroom can learn effectively, regardless of differences in ability.

² <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>