Effects of equine assisted interventions on communication and language development for children on the autism spectrum

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1-Introduction

Autistic spectrum conditions affect interactions and communication, with delay and special features in language development.

The aim of communication and speech therapies is to:
- build communication.
- permit language development.

Practices associating equine mediation increase and benefits are observed.

2- Method

In many researches it appears that horse (or pony)
- stimulate child communication systems,
- operate as a partner to facilitate interactions.

This approach brings
- neuro-psycho-physiological benefits.
- propitious frame for language development and learnings.

3-Results

Equine mediation
- helps children with autism to exchange and progress in communication.
- stimulates functions involved in interactions with others, communication development (joint attention, association, imitation, intention, perception).
- develops systems interfering in social adaptation, regulation and information processing.

Horse lead child to experiment co-action and reciprocity, promoting interactive behavior and exchanges with language.

Horse movements, through multisensory stimulation,
- activate sensory-integrative functions.
- encourage vocal productions.

Many international scientific studies about quantitative evaluation of results in equine mediation empower to validate this approach.
They show significant improvement in autistic symptoms, communication and language.

References

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4-Conclusion

Equine mediation completes and reinforces communication and speech therapy benefits.

Impacts assessment on language will continue to be studied.

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