



# ALISAL HIGH SCHOOL

Salinas Union High School District

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February 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is testimonial of Hope, Horses, and Kids and Lori Tuttle, Owner. I am the Special Education Teacher at Alisal High School in Salinas Union High School District and have worked with Ms. Tuttle for almost 1 year in different roles and capacities. Ms. Tuttle's program at Hope, Horses, and Kids has provided my students with the opportunity to physically benefit as well as enhance speech and social skill development.

My classroom comprised of eight boys and two girls with Autism, all of which have difficulty bonding emotionally to others. It is often hard for them to make eye contact, communicate what they are feeling, and express themselves to those they care about. Student are provided with opportunities to brush, hug, and pat the horses. By learning to care for the horses, they are able to associate the care they provide with feelings and an emotional bridge is constructed. This bond has led to better social and communication skills that they have now generalized into other areas of their lives (e.g. school, home, and in the community).

My students also have difficulty comprehending normal directions. Hope, Horses, and Kids allows my students to follow directions through fun activities that make taking directions much easier to grasp and remember. Students also give the horse directions, which provides them with opportunities in learning leadership, speaking, and listening skills. Students are naturally motivated to work with the horses and therefore students are more motivated to communicate.

Lori Tuttle has proven to be an exemplary human being as well as knowledgeable about addressing the individual special needs for each one of my students. She and her staff are such an asset to our community and I am truly grateful for the wonderful work she continues to do with my students!

Sincerely,

Talya Danzig  
Educational Specialist

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