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## Barn Buddy Activity Plan 2022

Below are some activities, strategies and goals we will be focusing on for this year's program. Not all are applicable to every child. And we will likely add more as we go! The program is differentiated on each child's individual needs, interests and reason for being here. Please let us know if there is anything of particular importance you would like for us to focus on. We welcome and encourage your input!

### Activities:

- Greeting the animals by name, upon arrival
- Counting the animals
- Reading (being read to) the information sheets about each animal and learning facts about them
- Filling the bird feeders around the property
- Going for a nature walk to talk about and look for wildlife (animal tracks and bird watching)
- Horses (walking, grooming, petting)
- Goats (feeding, petting, brushing)
- Horses (visiting from outside stall)
- Bunny (feeding, petting, holding)
- Chickens (feeding, petting, holding, check for eggs)
- Ducks (feeding, refreshing water, holding and petting)
- Cat (pet, feed, treat)
- Dog (pet, brush, walk on trails)
- Setting up grain for the horses using their own labeled bucket
- Cleaning out stalls
- Cleaning/refilling water buckets and filling troughs
- Reading a story to child's choice of animal
- Making up a story about one or more of the animals
- Farm Animal Yoga cards
- Horse Activity Cards (walk horse in a pattern, tell a horse your favorite [\_\_\_], identify a part of the horse and use the appropriate grooming tool, etc)
- Horse groundwork (haltering, leading, communicating with)
- Be A Vet. Listen to and compare the heartbeats of the animals with a real stethoscope. Learn some basic first aid in treating animal wounds or minor injuries.
- Picking up hay around the mangers and disposing
- Sweeping the aisle in the barn
- Sweeping the aisle in the tack room and hay room
- Sensory play (sand box, finger paint, making no bake treats)
- Free Play (toy horses, make believe)
- Making an animal or farm related craft
- Vegetable and Sunflower Garden (plant, harvest, weed, water)
- Butterfly and Carrot Gardens (water, weed, prune)
- Celebrate a holiday, birthday or special event on the farm
- Special Guest visit (mounted patrol, vet, farrier, trainer, etc)
- Other

## Strategies:

- Review safety rules prior to completing each activity
- Use praise and high fives to encourage and build self-esteem
- Prompt to take a break when child demonstrates behaviors identified as specific child's expression of anxiety
- Encourage to share and discuss feelings
- Use a verbal reminders to assist with smooth transitions
- Hold hands to avoid elopement
- Utilize "my turn" "your turn" to promote turn taking

## GOALS

### Communication:

- Make requests using full sentences
- Make requests using short phrases
- Make requests using short sentences on communication device with no assistance
- Use sign language to make basic requests
- Following 1 step directions
- Following multi-step directions
- Express feelings using words or picture chart
- Participate in back and forth conversation that volleys at least 3 times
- Maintain appropriate volume and tone
- Make eye contact when communicating (speaking and listening)
- Greet all peers, adults and animals verbally and/or with a wave
- Ask for clarification for something not understood without prompting

### Social:

- Demonstrate socially appropriate behaviors such as turn taking, waiting, sharing
- Identify the feelings of adults, children, and animals based on body language/expressions
- Say hello and goodbye to all animals
- Understand and demonstrate respect and empathy for animals and humans

### Motor:

- Independently open and close doors, gates, buckles and latches around The Barn
- Independently obtain equipment needed for activity (grooming kits, lead ropes, egg basket, water bucket, rake, broom, etc)
- Independently scoop/measure food quantities

### Sensory:

- Engage in "messy" activities without becoming upset
- Refrain from putting non-edibles in mouth
- Petting/feeling animals' coats and body parts
- Swing on the swing set. Swinging helps balance neurological activity in the brain and can calm children. It helps put the balance back in the system for children.
- Play in the sandbox. Tactile play engages the creative mind while strengthening sensory modulations.

### Safety:

- Learn about and demonstrate animal safety
- Learn about and demonstrate environmental safety
- Ask permission, and wait for a response prior to moving to a new location
- Putting and keeping on a helmet in the barn

### Emotional:

- Saying kind things about self and others
- When prompted, child will express their feelings verbally or using facial expression or a chart to point to
- Asking how an animal is showing his/her feelings
- Telling how an animal is making us feel