

Equine Therapy Program Mid90s

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Amy Dewey: This was how the Wild West was won, and now horses are helping stroke patients like Gaye Sougstad win the battle of recovery. Gaye is recovering from a stroke that damaged her motor skills.

Gaye Sougstad: I'm trying to improve my gait, retrain my brain to be able to move in a normal pattern of gait pattern:

Amy Dewey: That's where West Texas A&M University's Equi-Therapy Program comes in. The program uses horses to rehabilitate people with trauma injuries or debilitating diseases.

Swzanne Rogers: They either don't know how to walk correctly, or they have lost that ability, and the horses' (unintelligible) walk simulates that; he has a three-dimensional gait which does that, and it makes your body move as you would walking.

Amy Dewey: This alternative therapy is more appealing to Gaye than traditional rehab. She says she enjoys being around her four-legged friends who are helping her regain her strength, balance, and coordination.

Gaye Sougstad: It's fun, it's a different atmosphere, and you just relax and feel like you're going for a horse ride instead of therapy.

Amy Dewey: She says these weekly walks at the WTAMU Horse Center will help her get back in the saddle of everyday life. Amy Dewey, West Texas A&M University.

Unofficial Title: Lamar Elementary School Sound Lab

Bart Williams: Sound, something most of us take for granted, but to some the luxury of sound is something unknown and something difficult to understand, but with cooperative efforts from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, the Local Regional Program for the Deaf in Amarillo, and funded in part by the Amarillo Junior League understanding sound is becoming a reality. Because of this joint effort, a multisensory sound lab has been installed in Lamar Elementary School in Amarillo, Texas. This is the only laboratory of its kind in Texas, and the only one in the United States purchased by a school for educational purposes. The sound laboratory helps the hearing impaired understand sound through a vibrating floor, electronically processed sound signals from a microphone, and a seven-foot light column. These tools let the students feel and see sounds. Music therapist for the Regional Program for the Deaf Lara Bledsoe explains the many benefits the hearing-impaired students receive from the lab.

Lara Bledsoe: When we first started out I-, we had to reward them for using their voices because they-, a lot of them don't like using their voices 'cause they-, it doesn't mean anything to them, so we had major charts and all this stuff to get them to use their voices, and now they come in here and they use their voices so much more because they can see it, if they talk into the microphone, they can see it on these various (unintelligible), they can feel their voice now.

Bart Williams: The lab will also be used by West Texas A&M University music therapy students to develop activities for the hearing impaired. WTAMU is one of only four Texas Colleges and Universities that offer a music therapy bachelors degree program. The sound laboratory is giving University students the ability to bring sound to those who once lived in a world of silence. Reporting from the campus of West Texas A&M University, I'm Bart Williams.