



Taylor – Strong, Brave and Special

At Promise Ranch, we frequently get asked ‘**How can horseback riding help a child with special needs?**’ To answer that question, let’s take a look at Taylor, a young girl with developmental disabilities who came to us recently.



Taylor is a beautiful 12-year-old girl who is unable to participate in many events that you or I take for granted due to her developmental delays and poor trunk control. She and her family are constantly forced to deal with her limitations, which places great stress – both financial and psychological – on the whole family. Without access to services like Promise Ranch, children like Taylor can grow to feel isolated and are at-risk for depression and other long-term psychological issues.

We believe that every child should be accepted exactly as they are. Horses don’t care if a child is disabled, and neither do our trained therapists. As Taylor’s mother puts it:

From the very first lesson at Promise Ranch, I knew this was the right place. Sharon was able to work within Taylor’s ABILITIES and foster a great connection between Taylor and her horse Lily.

Being able to connect to a horse, the staff and other riders, to feel normal - to be immersed in what she can do, instead of what she cannot – we believe these things allow children like Taylor the opportunity to develop the confidence and self-esteem they need to live happy and productive lives.



So how is Taylor doing? Fantastic, of course. As her mother says:

Each week Taylor is excited to attend her sessions; it may be the only time during the week that she feels like she can do something at the same level that other 'typical' kids can. She feels strong, she feels brave, and special.

Strong, brave and special - shouldn't every child be allowed to feel that way? At Promise Ranch, we believe they should.

Sharon Tiraschi

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Promise Ranch is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information about how you can help, please contact Sharon at sharon@prtr.org