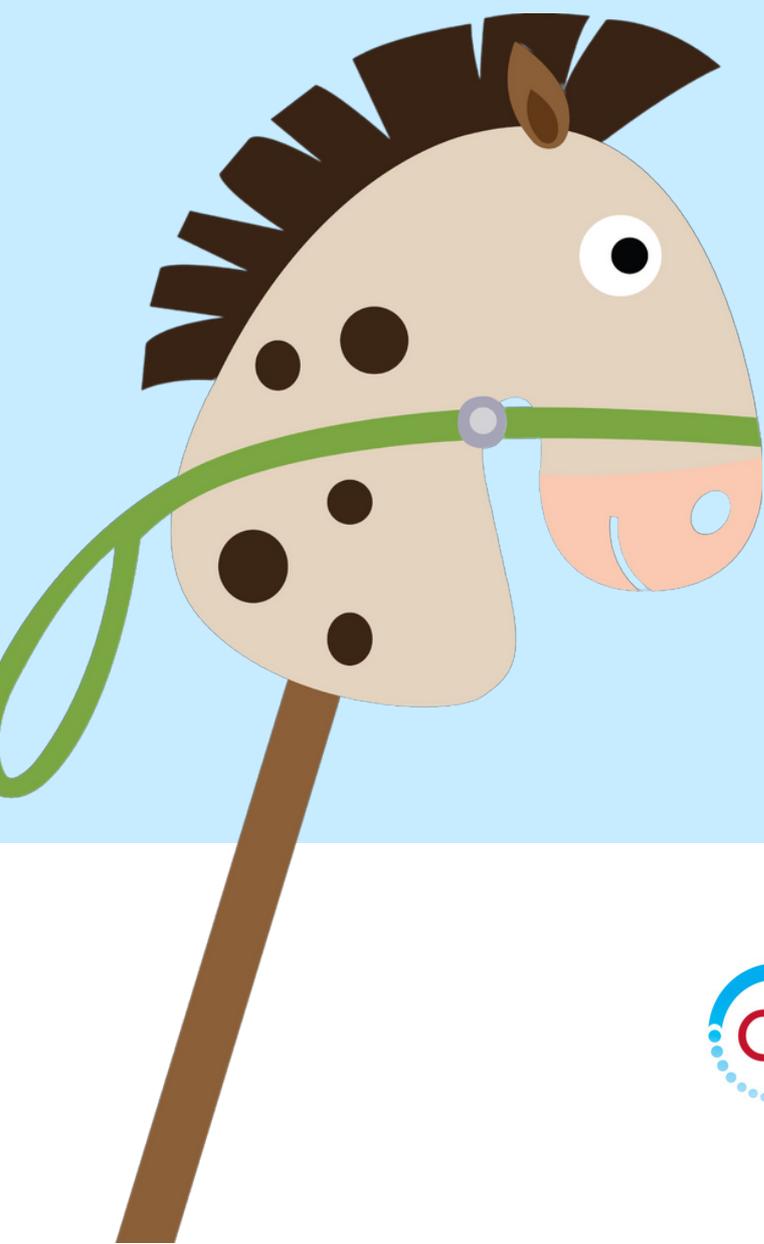


HOBBY THE HORSE

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME 2023

WWW.RIDEHIGH.ORG/HOBBYTHEHORSE



TEACHERS' GUIDE



#HOBBYTHEHORSE

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SUPPORTING



RIDE HIGH

CHARITY NO: 1138260

WELCOME

TO YOUR HOBBY THE HORSE GUIDE



Ride High is a Milton Keynes charity working to change the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable children in our community by teaching them to ride and care for horses. The Hobby the Horse programme is a great opportunity for other children to get creative and help support those less fortunate than themselves.

How will it work?

Your children will use their imaginations to design and make their very own Hobby the Horse using recycled materials from home and items provided by Ride High. Each school will then host its own fundraising event where children will seek sponsorship for taking part with their hobby horses and earn themselves a coveted Ride High rosette and certificate.

Designed to be fun, creative, educational and inclusive, the programme is specifically designed to support key areas of learning and development:

- ✓ Communication and language
- ✓ Physical development
- ✓ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✓ Expressive arts and design

...and covers many elements of the Key Stage 1 curriculum. Visit our website for Cross Curricular references. 

Next steps

In this booklet we will guide you through all the steps you need to take to get your children involved in our programme from start to finish.

Providing you have completed the programme before Christmas 2023, when and how you embark on 'Hobby the Horse' is entirely up to you, but this guide provides advice and guidance for introducing the initiative to the children and their parents/guardians, tips on how to make a hobby horse and ideas on how to organise your fundraising event.

Throughout the guide you'll come across sections displaying a  symbol. When you see these please visit the Resource section of our website: www.ridehigh.org/hobbythehorse for more information, access to templates and resources and to order various materials.

It's going to be a lot of fun for everyone involved but we're also keen to remind the children of the importance of why they're taking part. So throughout this guide (and on our website) you'll find information about Ride High to share with the children and their families – including how their fundraising efforts will help the charity.

- 1 8 Steps to success
- 2 Tips to make a hobby horse
- 3 Fundraising and about Ride High

We cannot wait to see how much fun your school has with this programme. Please remember to share your journey on social media.



#HOBBYTHEHORSE

8 STEPS TO SUCCESS

In this booklet we will guide you through all the steps you need to take to get your children involved in the programme from start to finish.

1

Plan your Hobby the Horse programme

Please plan and schedule the programme to fit in with your own plans. Consider drawing-up a brief project plan to ensure that you have enough time to make the most of the activity. Remember to set a date for your fundraising event and keep Ride High informed of your plans too.

2

Plan what your fundraising event will look like

The event is an opportunity for your children to show off their creations and to get active. It's also the element of the programme that children should be encouraged to seek sponsorship for. There are lots of ways you can create a fun event. See page 5 for ideas.

3

Introduce the Hobby the Horse programme to the children

Talk to the children about the programme and how it's going to work. You'll find three short videos on our website to play to the children. The first introduces the programme and explains about making a hobby horse. The second educates children about Ride High and what the charity does. The third is concerned about how horses can help us - the 'Magic of the horses'.

4

Tell your parents about the programme

Let them know about the programme, what your plans are and how they can help to involve their child, including the materials they'll need to help their child collect. In your packs you'll find an A5 leaflet (with envelope) to send home explaining everything, including an area for you to complete. On the back there is a sponsorship form for the children to gather sponsors for their fundraising event. Visit the Hobby the Horse website to download additional copies.

5

Collect the materials the children need to create their Hobby Horse

Task the children with collecting the materials they need to make their hobby horse - a list of ideas is provided on the following page. They are all items they should be able to recycle from home. Ride High has provided poles and eyes for the hobby horses. There is also a rosette template on the website if your children would like to make one for their horse.

6

Make your hobby horses and run your fundraising event

However you organise the programme we're certain that everyone will enjoy themselves. Remember to take lots of photos and to share your journey on social media. #hobbythehorse

7

Collect and return your fundraising money to Ride High

After your fundraising event please encourage your children to return their sponsorship money to you as quickly as possible and send via bank transfer or cheque to Ride High. Once we have heard from you we will send your school a special thank you letter. Remember to give your children their rosettes!

8

Tell us what you think

Ride High wants to hear your views on how the programme went - what worked well and what could be improved. Your feedback will help us to make this an annual event and to reach many more children. We will contact you directly but please also take a few moments to complete our online survey which you'll find on our website.

WHAT'S IN YOUR KIT

POLES

GOOGLY EYES



TIPS TO MAKE

There are lots of different ways for the children to make a hobby horse. Here are just a few suggestions (including lists of materials) to help you on your way. All items are interchangeable and children can use their imaginations to create something really unique.

EXAMPLE NO. 1

This is a really simple but very effective design to recreate.

What you'll need:

- Plastic milk bottle (4pt)
- Toilet roll tube
- Two buttons
- Piece of hairy material
- Masking tape
- PVA glue
- Scissors

EXAMPLE NO. 2

A little more challenging but stretches the imagination.

What you'll need:

- Two milk cartons
- Egg box
- Toilet roll tube
- Two buttons
- Wool
- Cardboard
- Paint & brush
- Masking tape
- PVA glue
- Scissors
- Rosette template

1



Only a few simple items are required. The milk bottle alone forms the horses head. Just create a hole for the pole to fit into.

2



Cut some ears from the cardboard tube and attach with masking tape. Buttons for eyes can be glued on.

1



Two cartons cut and stuck together with masking tape.

2



You can unscrew the lids for eyes and use egg boxes for ears and buttons for eyes.

3



Any old piece of material (preferably hairy) can be attached as a mane.

4



A rosette is a great addition to any of the hobby horse designs and children can write their own message in the middle.

3



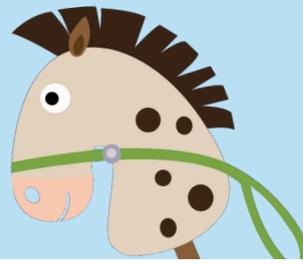
You also have the option to paint the horse. It doesn't have to be brown... horses come in lots of different colours!

4



Here we've used some cardboard and a plastic bag to cut out shapes to make a rosette.

A HOBBY HORSE



EXAMPLE NO. 3

Another option is to introduce some different materials that require a little more patience!

What you'll need:

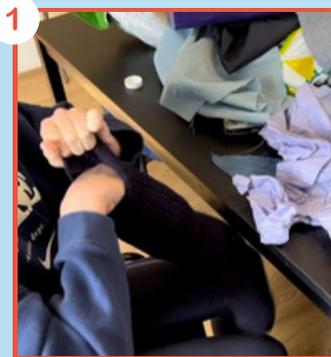
- Sock
- Stuffing
- Egg box
- Needle & thread
- Buttons
- Scrap of material
- Ribbon
- PVA glue
- Scissors

EXAMPLE NO. 4

This is a really simple but very effective design to recreate.

What you'll need:

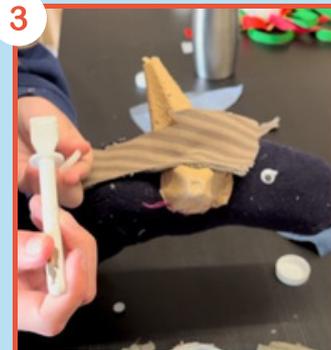
- Coloured scraps of material
- Horse head template
- Stuffing
- Needle & thread
- Buttons
- Wool and ribbon
- Scissors



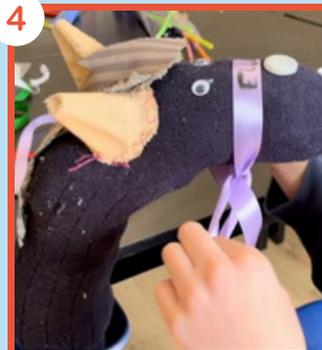
1 Grab one of dad's old (clean) socks and stuff it with tissue to give it shape.



2 Use egg boxes for ears and sew them on carefully using needle and thread.



3 Use PVA glue to attach items for the eyes, nose and mane.



4 Finishing touches such as ribbon for reins is a great way to personalise.



1 Using the template cut out two horse heads. Sew the edges of both together and turn the head inside out.



2 Use other materials to cut out ears and sew them to your horse.



3 You can then sew on various items and materials for eyes, a nose and mane.



4 The finished horse is fantastic and again reins and other details can be added.



It is impossible to overstate the impact that the horses have on the children who attend Ride High.

Riding and caring for the horses provides a new challenge for the children and the opportunity to do something special and enjoyable. They benefit from the satisfaction of learning new skills and develop a sense of pride at their achievements.

Nearly all the Ride High children have a favourite horse. They can describe its personality, its likes and dislikes. Try to encourage your children to name their horse and develop a character for it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HORSES AT RIDE HIGH

PLANNING YOUR FUNDRAISING EVENT

Your event is an opportunity for your children to show off their hobby horses, to get active and to raise money for Ride High.

Here we've shared some ideas to help you design your own event. Remember that the event needs to include an element of challenge that the children can seek sponsorship for. You may like to involve the children in the creation of the event too.

- **A theme**

Selecting a fun theme will make it exciting for the children and help you to generate lots of ideas for your event. How about horse-related themes such as Knights and Princesses or the Wild West? The children could dress-up to match the theme.

- **A challenge**

A Horse Derby or Gymkhana are both great horsey events. The children could race their hobby horses around a track. To make it a bit more challenging you could use some of your schools sporting equipment to incorporate some jumps and obstacles. You may want to use some class time or set some homework for the children to design their own racecourses. How about incorporating your challenge into an existing event like Sports Day?

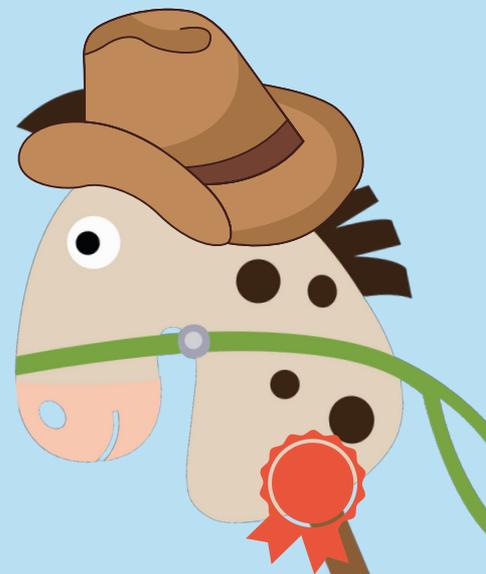
- **Competition**

We have provided a Ride High rosette for all the children who participate in the programme. You can also download a rosette template for them to make their own. 🏆

You may wish to use the rosettes to award to the fastest or most beautiful hobby horses. If you choose to plan a race you could begin with the horses entering a parade ring so visitors/teachers can see them up close. You could organise your own parade and judge the best dressed hobby horse and jockey.

- **Extras**

Depending on how long you want your event to last, there are lots of ways you can develop it and introduce different activities to help raise more funds for Ride High. For example a cake sale and competitions.



#HOBBYTHEHORSE

FUN-DRAISING

Please encourage your children to seek sponsorship from friends and family for taking part in your school's fundraising event.

Ideally each child will raise approximately £15, although we appreciate that this won't always be possible.

At Ride High



- £15** ... will pay for materials for use in a clubroom project
- £50** ... will pay for uniform and riding equipment for one child
- £100** ... will pay for five horse sessions for a child in need

 You will find sponsor forms on the reverse of the A5 leaflets enclosed in your packs to send home to parents. These can also be downloaded from our website.

Paying in your fundraising

Please ask your children to bring in their sponsorship money in the envelopes we provided in the kit. Once you have collated all the sponsorship money there are two ways in which you can send it to Ride High:

by Bank transfer....

Account name: Ride High Ltd
Sort code: 090127 Account No.: 97917533
Ref: [School name] HH2023

By cheque...

Made payable to 'Ride High Ltd' and returned to:
Hobby Horse, Ride High, Redland Drive, Loughton, MK5 8EJ



Ride High is a registered charity which uses horses to transform the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable children aged 8-18 years in our community.

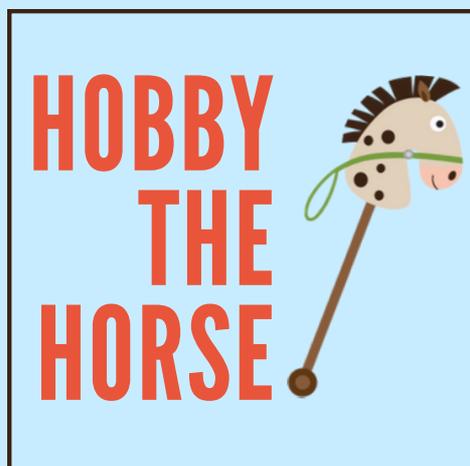
We work with 120 children every week. They are all referred to us by childcare professionals so we can prioritise those most in need of our help. They each face overbearing challenges that make everyday life a struggle. They may be a young carer for a parent or sibling, living in foster care because it isn't safe at home, or suffering with anxiety and depression. Very often the children do not attend school on a full time basis.

At Ride High we use horses to engage hard-to-reach children in a way other more traditional interventions often fail. Time spent with the horses provides vulnerable children with a challenge and something to look forward to each week. As they learn new skills their confidence and self-esteem increases. They learn to manage negative feelings and anxieties, and to feel much happier about the future.

Over a period of 3-12 months we use this connection and the children's newfound interest in horses to develop important social and literacy skills through the delivery of educational projects in our clubroom.



ABOUT RIDE HIGH



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