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## READ TO THE DONKEYS

For some kids, it's not easy to learn to read. Reading and learning should be enjoyable. Our Read to the Donkeys program is a great way for kids to improve their reading skills and build self-esteem and confidence in a fun, relaxed setting with our delightful little donkeys.

Our trained program donkeys are small, calm and well behaved. Reading out loud to the donkey, with the assistance of a volunteer, is motivating. It's relaxing, entertaining, inspiring, exciting, and much more!

- Reading helps develop cognitive and mental processing skills.
- Reading interesting stories helps to increase a child's attention span.
- Reading helps improve communication and build language and social skills.
- Reading well sets a child up for success in life, opening up endless opportunities for learning.

Reading matters! Read to the Donkeys is a form of pet therapy designed to connect kids with animals, building a bond that makes learning to read enjoyable and encourages kids to learn more and do more.

Age-appropriate donkey and horse story books are used for this program, including the ESS miniature donkey Bindy's life story. This program is geared towards children in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade and is offered at no charge. All participants get their own copy of the Bindy story to keep.

Interested? Contact ESS to sign up. Email <a href="mailto:ruth@equinespiritsanctuary.org">ruth@equinespiritsanctuary.org</a> or call 575.758.1212.



Learning to read is important!
Our special team of donkeys and volunteers can help!