

## Core Skills Analysis

### Science

- The child learned about horse anatomy, identifying major body parts such as mane, tail, hooves, and ears which enhances biological literacy.
- Understanding the needs of horses, such as food, water, shelter, and exercise, introduces basic concepts of animal care and responsibility.
- Observing and interacting with horses helped develop awareness of living organisms' behaviors and physical needs in a real-world context.
- Hands-on experience with walking horses improves knowledge of animal behavior and movement, promoting empathy and observational skills.

### Physical Education and Motor Skills

- Practicing walking horses aids coordination and gross motor skills, requiring balance and control.
- Learning how to physically care for and lead the horse boosts spatial awareness and strength.
- The activity encourages physical responsibility and safe handling techniques, fostering mindful body use around animals.
- Engagement with a large animal promotes confidence and calmness through controlled, purposeful movements.

### Social-Emotional Learning

- Caring for a horse nurtures empathy and compassion by responding to the animal's needs.
- The activity supports building patience and trust, as horses respond to gentle guidance and consistent care.
- Working closely with an animal provides a sense of accomplishment and nurtures responsibility.
- The nurturing relationship can reduce anxiety and promote emotional regulation through bonding.

### Tips

To deepen the educational impact of working with horses, integrate storytelling that personifies the horse, fostering empathy and deeper connection. Use simple diagrams or models to build on anatomical knowledge, helping the child visualize and remember horse body parts. Organize a sensory comparison session where the child observes different horses' textures, colors, and movements, enriching observational skills. Finally, encourage journaling or drawing about daily care routines to reinforce responsibility and reflect on emotional experiences during interactions.

### Book Recommendations

- [Horse Heroes: True Stories of Courage and Kindness](#) by Fran Hodgkins and True Kelley: A collection of real-life stories showcasing the bonds between humans and horses and the animals' remarkable abilities.
- [The Magic of Horses](#) by Thea Feldman: An informative and accessible introduction to horses, covering their anatomy, behavior, and needs for young readers.
- [Care and Keeping of Horses](#) by Carol K. Lindeen: A guidebook aimed at kids that explains how to look after horses, emphasizing their needs and basic care.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.3 - Describe connections between a series of events in a text (linking the care routine).

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1 - Participate in collaborative conversations about topics and texts with peers and adults (discussing horse care and needs).
- NGSS 2-LS4-1 - Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats (observing horse anatomy and behavior).
- PE Standard SH.K-2.1 - Demonstrate competency in fundamental motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities (walking and handling the horse).

### **Try This Next**

- Create a labeled horse anatomy worksheet for the child to color and identify key body parts.
- Design a simple daily care checklist worksheet to track feeding, grooming, and exercise routines.
- Write a short story or comic strip about a day in the life of a horse, focusing on its needs and interaction with its handler.