

To: Whom It May Concern

Sub: Letter of Recommendation

From: Brian Heflin

My name is Brian Heflin and my son took riding lessons from Jeanne Hamerly from April of 2015 through September of 2016. Our experience with Jeanne was top notch. When we were initially hunting for an instructor, one thing that really attracted me to Jeanne was her background as a Pediatric Nurse. I figured that somebody who spent a significant amount of time in that line of work would care about the health, welfare and safety of my son. I was right. Jeanne always made sure that her lesson was appropriate for my son's developmental level as a rider. She took things slow and built a strong riding foundation, focusing on posture, balance and learning a gentle touch with the horses, as opposed to man-handling the reins. I liked how she would occasionally "spice up" a lesson by incorporating the use of flags, plastic swords, or a giant soccer ball. When I first saw the plastic swords, I wondered how she would incorporate them into the lesson. She gave one to my son, who was on horseback, and then she "battled" him from the ground with the other plastic sword, forcing him to maintain control of his mount and maneuver it safely during this mild-mannered duel. As for the giant soccer ball, she would have my son and his mount maneuver the ball (the horse did the kicking and the boy did the driving) through a set of cones that represented a soccer goal. Again, this was an outstanding way to teach horse-handling while keeping it all light and fun for the boy... as well as for the horse! Jeanne was also outstanding to work with when it came to scheduling issues. There were times that we had to cancel due to scheduled (and unscheduled) conflicts. She was always friendly and understanding concerning these changes. That is one thing that I really liked about her. She wasn't pushy for us to "make up" the lesson; she was always happy to just skip a week if that was what worked best for my son and our family. After we got started with Jeanne, my son got involved in Cub Scouts. Jeanne was willing to drop down to an every-other-weekend approach with horse riding, in order to accommodate all of the work that was involved with earning the rank of Bear in scouting. Once the school year ended, we jumped right back into an every week schedule, and Jeanne was very accommodating in making that schedule change work for us all. Let me end by saying that I would not hesitate to recommend Jeanne Hamerly to any and all prospective students, to include beginning riders like my 9 year old son. Sincerely,



Brian Heflin

To Whom it May Concern,

I met Jeanne Hamerly through word of mouth as being a down to earth, knowledgeable, safe and an extremely fun riding instructor and we were not let down. Jeanne's love for horses shines through her personal horses gentleness and patience will all level of riders. My daughter was a beginner rider in the arena of formal lessons but experienced in a western atmosphere and Jeanne built on that strength.

Jeanne individualizes her lessons based on experience level as well as matches her horses strengths and weaknesses of what is being taught to that particular lesson. As an experienced rider herself, Jeanne values the need for continuing education and attends classes and workshops throughout the year to improve her riding seat as well as teaching skills, which to me is invaluable.

Lastly, Jeanne takes pride in the care of her horses as well as their surroundings. We could always count on clean tack, clean barn, and well groomed horses upon arrival. I recommend Jeanne Hamerly as a riding instructor to any level of rider.

Regards,

Stephanie Shugart