

# Don't just take our word for it...

“ EC never stops looking for ways to improve... because of your dedication to this very special work and because you have built something incredible, and want people to succeed! ”

EC is the absolute BEST with its training and passing on knowledge and updated materials to their facilitators and clients. I know all our horses will truly appreciate the improved way that humans will be working with them through the human's body language and no more pulling on the horse's head!

- Beverly Birtley

This certification provides the best knowledge of how to utilize the horses natural way of communicating. It helps me to facilitate the objectives and to parallel back to my clients in a way that their teacher is able to communicate clearly and effectively to them. Equine Connection (EC) is amazing for implementing this new way of working with horses in that they are always striving to ensure that the safety and welfare of the horses is #1! If there are new proven ways they ensure that the facilitators certified through them are up to date in all areas, and that our amazing teachers are understood. The EC have spent hours and time ensuring that this new way of working with horses works, and have implemented it into their BuildingBlock Objectives. It allows us 110% to understand our horses and connect to them in the language they speak. Thank You!!!

- Cathy Wiltsie

The Equine Connection continues to share new knowledge with all of us, keeping us moving forward, updated, and continually learning. The three energies in particular honor our horses as our teachers and will improve their mindsets and overall well-being.

What I appreciate the most at Equine Connection are the following three things:

1. The welfare of the horse is the heart and center, the absolute priority in their programs. They continuously seek professional help from top experts of the industry, follow the newest research and make adaptations within their programs, if there is any chance for improvement.
2. The incredible and ongoing support system and accessibility for their global team. It is a family, we're in this together.
3. The huge portfolio of work material, course material, training videos, documentation, handouts, flipcharts, booklets, posters, flyers, marketing material, etc. that you have access to and that you can use for your own company and your own programs is simply amazing. And they keep producing, updating and improving always. It is an unbelievable added value.

- Deborah Hofmann Nogueira

This certification has really helped me move forward because it's all laid out in front of you. Everything from the curriculum to workplace. You have lots of support and many experienced facilitators to help. I've set goals and have been able to surpass them all. It's the best feeling.

- Krista Hill

This organization is always growing and working to make our horses welfare top priority and keep its facilitators up to date in their training! It's why I picked this company to certify with!

- Gwen Donohoe

This certification has been instrumental in the success of Spur'n Up Hope and in the growth of our program!

I love that Equine Connection continues to look for new ways for us to work with our horses better and help us learn to better communicate with them in ways they understand. These new techniques also assist us in better assisting our clients to learn from our Horse Teachers.

- Lee Williams

Becoming certified with Equine Connection has completely changed my life and helped me forge a new path helping others and sharing the power of horses. Without it I would not be where I am today. With the very best curriculum and certification behind I feel confident running my business.

- Sarah Reid

This certification has helped me understand not only people better but also my wonderful horses. It has helped me with my job (working with dysregulated children) with my personal relationships and helped me to help others. Doing what I love. Being with our amazing horse teachers and children. I have been able to help my former students grow in ways I never could within the classroom walls. I've also helped friends and family members see toxic traits and habits. This new program will only help me to continue this progress and help my clients achieve an even higher level of self awareness that they are seeking.

Equine Connection is continually researching, developing, and adapting to our ever changing world. They put our teachers, the horses first, that means as research evolves, we need to stay current and adjust with the research as it is our honor to be accepted and trusted by the horses. I commend them for continually looking at innovative ways to make our programs top notch while always keeping the horses well being at the forefront.

- Meg Lago

This certification helps me move forward by everyone inspiring us to get out of our comfort zone. It also feels awesome to be able to help people through our beautiful horses.

As humans we should try to always be willing to learn and see things from different perspectives. I think you guys have showed you are true heroes for doing this. When you know better, you do better.

- Sherry Heldmann

There are no other EAL's in my area and I am finally getting the exposure I have been working at for 3 years. Our area is very deficient in mental health or family services agencies. The certification is the only reason they will have a discussion with me because they can't fathom how horses will help people.

You are always available to answer questions, so very patient and above all, very generous with your support and creativity to adapt situations. You are also the best cheerleaders I have ever met.

- Patricia Stacey

This certification created an opportunity for self reflection and in the process of developing my facilitation skills I was able to advance my teaching skills as well. I now incorporate both teaching and facilitation in my riding instruction and have an avenue for individuals who are unable to ride or who are afraid to ride to still get the benefit of horse time for personal development. It also gives my horses who are not able or willing to be ridden anymore a job they enjoy.

Equine Connection demonstrates through their business model that they are more interested in developing people and spreading awareness of horse welfare than they are in simply making money from a concept.

- Amy Waterbury

Achieving this certification has been absolutely inspirational! The motivation to get going immediately is immeasurably valuable, and the helpfulness of the 'family' of facilitators has been outstanding. With this certification under my belt, I believe my goals for early retirement from a full-time desk job are achievable! Equine Connection has cemented together other disparate principles of working with horses that I have been experimenting with. The focus on horses being 'teachers' and the positive outcomes that are stressed and demonstrated throughout the course are instrumental in building confidence in offering these services in the community. The support of the Equine Connection instructors and family at large cannot be quantified!

- Lucinda Lunstrum

You ladies are just the absolute best people to have come into my life and have helped me more than words can express. I hope to make that difference for others.

- Sarah Wise

As a recent graduate of the certificate program, I have found that I have all the tools I need. There is A LOT of information and it takes commitment to get through it all. However, with each accomplished step, I am more confident that I have everything I need, both inside and outside to successfully launch and provide and hold space for people to reach their next best self through the power of our teachers, our horses. I have been working on my EAL dream for over two years and while I was ready to support people in this capacity, I didn't have all the business tools or all the connections needed to see the program I want to create. I started my Equine Connection certification about two months ago and I have so many tools and support. Those are the missing ingredients to move forward that I haven't had over the last two years with another certification programs that I took.

I love that the ladies at Equine Connection, even after doing this work for over a decade, keep their mind open to improvements that allow us to do better for horses and humans and are willing to continue to evolve. I have been teaching energy work with horses to volunteers over the last two years and it is life-changing when you look at the impact our energy has on each horse and the herd as a whole. My experience as a volunteer barn manager allowed me to try out the concepts and ideas of how energy shifts and moves in both positive and negative ways. Those parallels were powerful and empowered my team to own their own energy and its impact. This is big stuff. If we can push or pull 1300 lbs with the position of our bodies, which we can, imagine what we can do in our personal and professional lives? Thank you guys for your willingness to take us all to our next best self.

- Shawn Paul

This certification has allowed me to combine my two passions - education and horses - and to begin a new life journey and business. It has also helped me to understand my horses better, and deepen my relationship with my own horses.

I love that the new way of working with horses is all about listening to the horse and being respectful of the horse, more than ever before. And that central to it all is the welfare of our amazing teachers.

- Tracey Hoffrichter

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Being Certified with Equine Connection has helped me move forward in my business with continuing support by the whole team as well as fellow facilitators. Even though this is my business and I am self employed I feel so supported. If I have questions or need advice, the support is at our fingertips with Workplace.

- Brittany Burns

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This certification empowers me to be my best self for my horses, for my clients, and for my personal growth. This is definitely a one of a kind certification. I am able to do what I love and earn a living while doing so is the icing on the cake.

I was drawn to Equine Connection because of the reputation they have for putting the horses first.. ALWAYS. This new way of working with horses confirms that I made the right choice. These beautiful animals deserve for the horse industry to evolve in the way we work with them.

- Tonya O'Shaughnessy

Getting certified has given me the knowledge and self awareness, that I can stand tall with confidence and succeed having my own business, working with my horses everyday!! I absolutely love what my horses and I can offer to my community ... I know in my heart, I have seen & experienced that this education is based in integrity, morals and high standards!! And that means the world to me, I take great pride saying I'm a Certified EAL Facilitator with Equine Connection!!

- ShariLea Schmidt

Equine connection is constantly developing these marvellous programs and ALWAYS with the welfare of the horse in mind. That is very important to me as facilitator!

- Johanna Frieberg

This certification has helped me improve myself and my thinking, while also giving me the opportunity to help others become more confident, build trust, and communicate more clearly. It's truly rewarding to be able to say, "I have a program that can help you or your child."

In a world where humans are becoming more and more disconnected, it's wonderful to have a way to ground them/us and assist with personal self-awareness.

- Meg Lago

They are very progressive and helpful and they want a better world for horses so that we can recognize that horses should not be treated like they don't have a voice.

- Sandra Kajan

“ Equine Connection is always looking at ways to do better, for its certification, those who are training, those who are providing programmes and for the participants who are benefiting. The most important reason for these advancements though is for the welfare of the horse, so owners and participants alike have a better understanding of them and the horses are happier, healthier and safer!

- Leanne Benjamin

It demonstrates that when you put the horses first, treating them as true partners, you continue to grow and learn and share those learnings with everyone, supporting all in their growth.

- Jennifer Morford

The more you know, the more responsible you are to do better. I want to be the best facilitator for my horses and my clients that I can be. I want to continue to be thoughtful as it pertains to the teacher- the horse, and help my teachers feel good, safe and happy helping humans! Being certified is a way to do better and be part of a community that always strives to be the best!

EC is always looking to be better and to do better! I love that they are cutting edge as it pertains to partnering with our teachers (horses) to help them be their best!

- Cassandra Ann Strommen

I had hit a brick wall. I lost my get up and go after my daughters Kerri (2023) and Sandra (2019) died - I have been just "existing" for the last 5 years. I really like the feel of the energy of your new programs and I am looking for a kickstart to finding meaning in life for me and others that are left behind. I see a lot of kids just floating and I would like to add purpose to their life. Horses have helped bring me back to life and I want to do the same with kids and adults, women in particular. New ideas are always an upgrade of information and I am ready for new and better. Now is the time for me to move! We were just chatting with O'Cheise first nation about doing some sessions with them in spring of 2025.

- Diane Baker

I love that the Equine Connection has such an amazing and balanced approach to the horse human connection. Working with the horses rather than seeing them as a tool, is a perspective that resonates with me and seeing it in person you get to see how easily it resonates with clients. This way allows horse and human to create an authentic relationship built on mutual understanding, respect and trust rather than a dominant relationship over the horse.

- Rachel Hunt

It proves that you don't need to ride the horse; all the lessons can be learned off the horse. But also it brings you to a different level of connection with a being that speaks a different language and helps you communicate better with both horses and humans. By gaining a better understanding, we learn how to better ourselves by listening differently to the horse.

- Michelle Neaves

“ Equine connection has shown me how to truly listen to my horses, to listen to what they have been saying all along. The most patient of beings - remarkable things happen when we open our minds to their teaching. We learn things about ourselves, and about our potential for having an authentic life by paying attention to our own behaviour when working with the horse. Equine Connection continues to lead the way.

- Kristen Harley

This certification has opened my eyes to a new business for both myself and my horses. I am a new horse owner and rider and wanted to become certified in therapeutic riding. However, I knew that I wasn't that knowledgeable in teaching others how to ride so I was looking for other ideas. This certification was just what I needed and it was something that was attainable for me. I could totally see myself working with my horse as the teacher and guiding my clients to think about the why of what is happening in the moment and provide them with the necessary life skills they needed.

Equine Connection is amazing because you can work with your horses, which I already love to do, and even if your horses are not "rideable" they can still have an important job working with clients. This program allows people to work on life skills while having the horse as a teacher and it allows them to be present and not think about anything else. All the curriculum is done for you which is awesome!!

- Laura Lopez

EC is aware of the horse welfare. They work with universities such as Guelph

University with Gayle Ecker. EC is aware of the equine cognition and it is evidence based. Every being learns differently ❤

- Heather Hamilton

The certification provides a solid framework for safely and effectively working with horses to help the participants maximize their learning by discovering the power that they hold within themselves.

This new way of working with horses is based on a genuine connection built with the horse. By better understanding how the horse thinks, you can create a relationship where the horse willingly wants to honour the request you are asking of them.

- Garry Weis

I have spent my working career in industries that I have enjoyed and for the most part found satisfying. I never felt like I was working to move me forward. All my efforts, though proud of my accomplishments, were always for someone else to benefit. Becoming a certified facilitator with Equine Connection has given me a completely different direction - one that I get to determine the path and the outcome.

Though humans have been interacting with horses for approximately 25,000 years, to me it seems that it is only relatively recently that people have expanded from using horses to partnering with horses. For the welfare of the horse, to help them feel safe, it is important to understand how the horse thinks, feels and reacts to the stimuli that is presented to it. Thank you, Equine Connection, for implementing this method of working with horses. It is improving the life of horse and human by stepping up communication.

- Fran Wilson

Equine Connection strives to have the most current, facts driven and relevant knowledge for both horses and humans. I trust that if I get the info from them, it will be researched, researched and researched before it's ever mentioned! The support they give is amazing for every facilitator and I honestly don't know how they do it all!! They truly want people to continuously improve and to help people do it the best way possible.

- Sara Lavoie

Because it focuses on using horses as the teacher to allow people to experience their authentic selves through the voice of the horse. It creates self awareness and so much more within the individual. I just love it.

- Megan Weir

“ My training with Equine Connection has taught me to be “present” when I’m with my horses. It is beyond evident the amount of work that has gone into creating this amazing certification and the ongoing care & assistance for facilitators within the program goes above & beyond. The communication from Equine Connection is constant and encouraging. We can also be assured that we are implementing the most up to date methods in working with horses and understanding them to the best of our abilities.

- Sharon Verschaeren

The ongoing commitment of the Equine Connection to the greatest teachers in the world, our horses, and also their facilitators, is second to none. Their programming is a testament to their continuous commitment to the welfare of the horse. These programs not only enhance our horses well being but also our own lives and businesses. As Kari & Carolyn so graciously say - "You don't know what you don't know, until you know & THEN you do better" - and this is exactly why the Equine Connection is a leader in my EAL journey.

- Natalie Blair

The EC certification has allowed my beautiful horses and myself to help over 600 participants discover empowerment, resilience, confidence and find their voice free of charge through our charity in 5 years. Woot woot! Thank you EC!! Xx

- Michelle Beatty

This certification program is helping me move forward with some profound changes on both a personal level and with my current practice! I know in my heart that what I have learned through Equine Connections is going to propel my existing business to previously unimagined levels and genuinely help the people I work with become their most authentic selves and learn amazing new life skills. I am truly excited to step out of the role of counsellor and into the role of facilitator. I am pumped to be certified in EAL through Equine Connection and start using this amazing new Levelled Program with the spirited youth I already work with! And I am even more excited to expand my business to work with other service providers, women in business, and families. Equine Connection has given me the tools and everything I could possibly need to support the people who come to my practice to learn self-awareness, relationship skills, resiliency, and much more. Equine Connection teaches you how to facilitate this learning by getting the people you work with to understand their equine partners/teachers and learning the natural way horses speak and move. This program is truly transformational. With 20 years of experience working with spirited youth and their families, I know that for people to learn and utilize new life skills, they need first to feel like they can show up as themselves where the environment has to be physically and emotionally safe, and the objective needs to be clear and obtainable. They also need the opportunity to practice the new skills in hands-on/ real-life situations and experience the success they gain from utilizing the new skill before they can or are willing to integrate it into the rest of their lives. This brilliant program does all that and soooo much more- It truly is AMAZING!!!!!!

- Kerie-Lynn Hirsekorn

One of the main ways I find EC to be amazing is their willingness to incorporate new knowledge and advancements in our understanding of horse/human learning, interactions and parallels into their programs in order to be sure we are serving our clients to the fullest extent we can. Truly, they're the best!

- Libbie Zenger

It has given me the focus and direction to take my program. I knew I was going to offer programs for victims of trauma and abuse as well as offer woman's workshops, however, the EAL certification has provided the building blocks that are needed to impact the growth of my participants.

Listening to our horses, working with our horses, and being a partner with the horse can only be mastered if we don't pull on their head we can understand the language of the horse (using our bodies to open up and invite interaction or block advancements). It is important that we are responsive to their subtle communication while also communicating our intentions. Equine Connection is amazing because once again, they are putting the welfare of the horse in the forefront of their programs. WOOHOO!

- Suzanne Foresman

“ Kari, Carolyn, Jane and the team are amazing at what they do. This course exceeded my expectations and was so easy to navigate, despite it being online.

The Equine Connection crew are incredibly helpful and accessible. Definitely leaders world wide in the equine assisted learning space. This course has helped, my already successful horse business, thrive with happier horses who feel more like they are seen heard and apart of the team.

Get around it, you will not be disappointed.

- Ebs Newman

Equine Connection, Academy of Equine Assisted Learning, provided me with everything I need to start a new business. I love that there is online and in person support available to assist me on my journey. The powerfully skilled team of Kari, Carolyn and Karsyn are knowledgeable and compassionate. The Business Pack is a tremendous all-inclusive resource packed with everything you need to start up and run your business. Thanks for sharing such heart centered information about how to “connect” with horses on a deeper level to make their lives better as they help make human lives better. In the Spirit of Life

- Diane Baker

This certification course has profoundly transformed both my life and my horses. When I started, I was a novice with limited confidence in handling horses. Now, having completed the course, my confidence has soared, and I can engage with my horses in ways that ensure their safety and well-being. I've also learned the critical importance of equine dental care, a topic that had never fully crossed my mind before. The ability to work as a team with my horses to help others is truly incredible, and having the support of Equine Connection makes the experience even more rewarding.

- Stephanie Larrabee

Equine Connection, Academy of Equine Assisted Learning, is the focused program I needed to begin my equine business. They have provided me with the research-based curriculum that will help me to facilitate focused objectives to my clients. Once I began the program, I immediately knew I found my herd.

- Suzy Foresman

“ EAL is such a big part of our program at the Carl E Dahl house. We run the program with men in early recovery. The parallels between what they learn in EAL and addiction/ everyday life is incredible.

I would love to see the new updated programs, so we can use the new common practices to improve the way we work with our teachers out in the ring!

I love how Equine Connection is always looking for the best way to work with our beloved teachers. It can be easy to for companies to rest on their laurels when things are running smoothly. Equine Connection continues to be progressive with the animals best interest in mind.

- Thomas Johns