

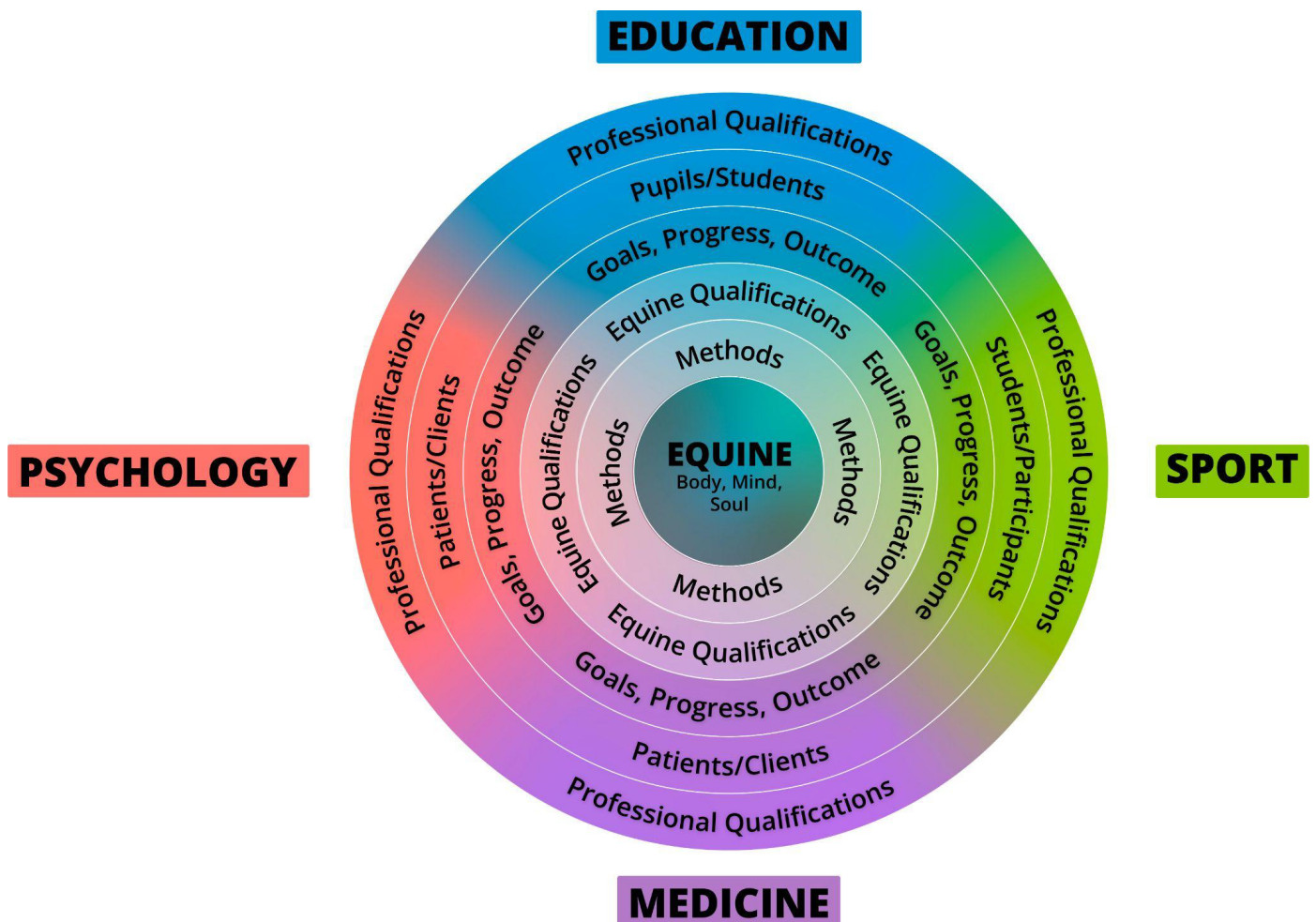


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Best Practice in Equine Facilitated Interventions – Education

Illustration of the field of Equine Assisted Services:



One goal of the Erasmus project was to define the **required and desirable competencies** at the professional level AND at the equine related level of the service provider. Those are grounded on the basis of understanding and respecting the intrinsic nature of the horse as a sentient being.

This illustration is an overview of the **categories of Equine Assisted Services (EAS)**. It describes the constellation of providers, activities and receivers of EAS and captures the differences and commonalities within the categories.

Equine Assisted Services (EAS) are divided into four categories, which are noted on the outside of the circles. There are:

Education, or equine assisted learning

Sport, – including competitions like Special Olympics, Paralympics as well as equine centered activities such as trail rides etc. for the purpose of wellbeing,

Medicine with physical, occupational, speech therapies and other medical equine assisted treatments

Psychology - equine assisted psychotherapy

While there are differences between those four categories the boundaries are fluid. They may overlap depending on the specific qualifications and goals of the service providers as well as on country-specific laws and customs.

Moving towards the center of the illustration, the first three circles ask for the **professional qualifications** (professional licenses or certifications) of the service provider, the characteristics of the **service receivers**, and **Goals, Progress and Outcomes** for each service.

The next three circles address the **equine related qualifications** of the service providers. These are **not specific** to the categories. Mounted and unmounted activities, **methods** like riding, vaulting, driving, groundwork etc. can be incorporated in all four categories depending on the needs and abilities of the service receivers and qualifications of the service providers.

In the center of all Equine Assisted Services is the **Equine** with his body, mind, and soul. He is the common denominator for all four categories.