

Scott Gentner, 13, left, works with Bella Terra's Jeremiah Niesen to focus on keeping Pepper, a miniature horse, running in a circle around the corral.



With the help of tiny horses

Epilepsy Foundation campers empowered by working with miniature horses

Horses, even miniature ones, seem to have an intuitive sense of what humans are feeling.

That connection proved invaluable to the 77 third-to-10th-grade youngsters attending the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan's Camp Discovery during visits to Bella Terra, a Mattawan nonprofit organization special-

izing in empowering youths and adults through working with their miniature horses.

Campers took turns grooming and walking the horses before working with them on goal-oriented activities. The five-day camp, also held at Pretty Lake Camp, was designed to boost self-esteem and personal growth.



Above, Nicholas Westphal, 12, pats Peanut, a miniature horse, at Bella Terra, an equine nonprofit organization in Mattawan.



At left, Joey Hammil, 13, watches as Pepper, a miniature horse, runs around a corral at Bella Terra as he waits his turn.

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