

Kids!

*By Suzy Hopkins*

Some of the kids who were clients at the handicapped riding facility where I worked in California had advanced to the point where they rode the horses by themselves. I would ride a horse and they followed me riding a pattern marked in the dirt or we played Simon Says, dodge ball or Red Rover, Red Rover. That final game involved four members of the group lining up holding hands while mounted on their horses facing another four similar riders. One kid from the first group would call out a kid's name from the group across the arena: "Red Rover, Red Rover send Chris right over." The designated kid would ride his horse across the arena. If that kid on his horse could break the grip of two of the riders in the first line he could go back to his original line. If not, he would join the challenging line. The horse hit the clasped hands with their nose or neck and broke through the line unless the kids dropped their grip laughing hysterically before the horse even reached the holding hands. I never liked this game, too rough for me as a kid. But the kids loved it. They enjoyed all their games not realizing it was physical therapy. Kids just want to have fun.