

HORSEMANSHIP CURRICULUM:

RAINBOW LEVEL

Rainbow Level is a special introductory level designed for very young children who are not yet able to ride and care for a horse independently.

Rainbow Level students ride on the leadline, or with a "Ground Buddy" walking close by, to ensure their safety and control. This Level includes basic horse knowledge and horse care concepts, emphasizing the importance of unmounted education for all ages.

WHO IS RAINBOW LEVEL FOR?

- 🐾 **Children who are not yet mature enough for regular riding lessons**, typically aged 4-7.
- 🐾 **Beginner riders in shorter 30-min lessons** who need a basic yet engaging curriculum.
- 🐾 **Students who, for any reason, need to ride on the leadline** to remain safe and comfortable.
- 🐾 **Students without** strong reading skills.
- 🐾 **Students and parents who benefit from a simplified introduction** to mounted Horsemanship and unmounted HorseSense skills.

WHAT DOES RAINBOW LEVEL TEACH?

- 🐾 **Basic horse safety practices** and equine terminology.
- 🐾 **Pre-ride preparation** and safe riding attire.
- 🐾 **Basic riding skills at the walk** with an emphasis on developing a secure and balanced position.
- 🐾 **An introduction to riding at the trot or jog**, with assistance.
- 🐾 **Rules for safe treat-giving**, including the importance of always asking permission.
- 🐾 **The importance of horse care routines** such as grooming, cooling out and stall cleaning.

Teaching young children requires a different approach!

Students under the age of eight have short attention spans and have difficulty understanding complex concepts and skill. They may lack body awareness, motor control, and understanding of how their behavior influences the horse. They need enthusiastic instructors and LOTS of assistance.

However, we've found adapting traditional lessons for this age group to be invaluable. **Creating safe, fun equine experiences often turns a child's curiosity about horses into a lifelong passion.**

While we use **Rainbow Level** exclusively for young riders and occasional "Intro to Horses" experiences, many instructors have successfully used the curriculum with students of all ages, including adults.

