

HorseSense Learning Levels
HORSESENSE CURRICULUM:

RED LEVEL

The **Red HorseSense Level** is designed to introduce unmounted horse handling and care to beginner riders and non-riding horse enthusiasts.

This Level emphasizes **safety for both horse and human** while teaching important **ground handling skills, equine terminology and basic horsekeeping**.

WHO IS RED LEVEL FOR?

-  **Adults and children (typically age 8 and up).** *Younger children (or students who cannot handle a horse independently) should start with our age-appropriate **Rainbow Level** instead.*
-  **Beginners with ZERO horse experience** - especially students just starting to ride.
-  **Beginners with previous unstructured horse experience**, or those with "gaps" in their equine knowledge.
-  **Parents of young riders** interested in learning basic horse knowledge.
-  **Volunteers** assisting with therapeutic programs or equine rescue organizations.
-  **Anyone who wants to help** you with barn chores!

WHAT DOES RED LEVEL TEACH?

-  **Important safety practices** and rules for behavior in the barn, pasture and arena.
-  **Equine body language** and communication.
-  **Ground handling skills** including haltering, leading, hoof handling and tying.
-  **Basic grooming and hoof care.**
-  **Parts of the horse** and important equine terminology.
-  **Parts of the saddle and bridle** along with the names, functions and care of simple pieces of tack.
-  **Rules for safe feeding** and how to identify horse-quality hay, grain and water sources.
-  **The importance of stable management** and how to muck out a stall.

We consider Red HorseSense Level to be the most important Level in our curriculum.

This level of knowledge is necessary for *everyone* who wishes to safely spend time at the barn. You may wish to teach **Red Level** as:

-  **A prerequisite** or introductory course before students start mounted lessons.
-  **A rainy-day supplement** to your regular mounted lessons.
-  **An unmounted course of study**, separate from your regular lesson program, offered to homeschoolers and other groups.
-  **Part of unmounted group activities** in a beginner day camp or clinic program.

