

HORSEMANSHIP CURRICULUM:

RED LEVEL

The **Red Horsemanship Level** introduces basic handling and riding skills, giving new students a strong foundation in mounted safety.

This Level covers important **horse safety concepts** on the ground before focusing on **beginner riding lessons** such as mounting and dismounting, use of the aids and riding at the walk and trot.

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 who have never ridden a horse before,** with or without previous horse experience on the ground.
-  **Beginners with previous unstructured experience,** or who are new to your program or style of riding. You may wish to have all incoming students start at this Level to ensure there are no gaps in their knowledge.
-  **Participants in a riding camp** geared toward beginners.

WHAT DOES RED LEVEL TEACH?

-  **Basic horse safety practices** and pre-ride routine, including grooming and tacking up.
-  **Balanced position** and use of the **natural aids** in the saddle.
-  **"Survival skills"** such as a defensive safety seat, retrieving dropped stirrups, emergency stop and emergency dismount.
-  **Introductory ring figures** at the walk.
-  **How to ride in two-point position** or over **ground poles at the walk.**
-  **Posting to the jog or trot,** with the goal of developing the secure position and quiet hands necessary to trot one lap of the arena.

"HORSEMANSHIP, noun: the art of riding, handling, and training horses.

Good horsemanship requires that a rider control the animal's direction, gait, and speed with maximum effectiveness and minimum efforts."

- Encyclopedia Britannica

The mounted Horsemanship curriculum (named to reflect the dictionary definition of horsemanship: *the art and skill of riding a horse*) covers very basic ground handling along with skills in the saddle, making **Red Level** appropriate for an introductory riding course or a starting point for new students in your lesson program.

We strongly encourage instructors to teach this Level alongside the unmounted Red HorseSense Level to increase students' knowledge of horses and barn safety.

