



Don't tell the instructor derogatory characteristics about your child such as shyness or clumsiness, especially in front of the child. How embarrassing for them!

Don't tell your child their fear is "silly". Fear keeps us from going beyond our own abilities on the horse and keeps us safe.

Don't speak for the child if the instructor has directed a question to the child. I need them to speak back to me so I know they understand what they are learning.

Don't instruct from the sidelines during a lesson as it distracts both the child and the instructor. This is often called the "Little League Parent" syndrome.

Don't bring friends along to lessons without the farm's expressed permission. This is not a daycare and all juveniles **MUST** have their own parents sign a Release and Waiver before entering the barn.

Don't speak poorly of past trainers or instructors, especially in front of the child. It displays poor sportsmanship and without seeing the events transpiring, the instructor has no comment anyway. Besides, my instruction is good instruction but it is far from the only kind of instruction out there.

Don't forget your kid. Parents are welcome to drop off and leave but please pick up in a timely manner. We will not leave children unattended in the barn but we don't want to cancel other plans while waiting for a wayward parent.

Do help the student follow the farm's lesson guidelines, especially being prompt for lessons.

Do pay your lesson fees at each lesson. Income keeps our facility running and our horses fed and happy.

Do watch the lesson if you would like but be quiet and unobtrusive.

Do take pictures of your child riding but only after you let everyone know. Sudden flashes from a camera can spook a horse and upset a child.

Do dress your child in appropriate clothing for lessons even if they resist. Proper clothing is a safety issue first and foremost but the proper gear also makes my job easier. I need to see what the body is doing up there on the horse and it is hard under layers of baggy saggy clothes. Shifting clothes can pinch, bunch or distract the rider. If you need suggestions on what to wear or where to get it, ask! I also know several inexpensive options for outfitting a growing child so you don't need to break the bank on riding clothes.

Do ask your child about their time at the barn and if necessary, communicate their thoughts back to the instructor. If the child is bored or scared or happy, I need to know!

Do call the farm if you have any questions or concerns.

Kevin & Sarah Vas

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