

# Little Britches

Little Britches is an introductory level for young riders aged 4 through 7, who are not yet able to ride and care for a pony independently. Little Britches riders should always practice their skills with the supervision and assistance of an instructor!

- ☆ I always wear boots and an ASTM-SEI approved helmet when I am riding. I can put on my helmet myself at the proper time in the tack up routine and show you how it fits correctly.
- ☆ I can tell you how to dress safely for riding.
- ☆ I can show you how to correctly approach a pony, and how to move around a pony safely - including walking around behind.
- ☆ I can tell you why you have to groom a pony and pick out his feet before every ride.
- ☆ I can help my instructor or an older, more experienced rider prepare for a ride. I help with the grooming, cleaning hooves, and putting on the saddle and bridle. When I am a little bit bigger, I will be able to tack up a pony without any help.
- ☆ I can show you the basic parts of a saddle and bridle, such as the bit, reins, stirrups and girth.
- ☆ I can lead a pony safely, both with a halter and lead rope and with the bridle reins.
- ☆ I can help to do a safety check on my tack and pony before I ride. I can pull down the stirrups, put the reins over my pony's head, and help check the girth.
- ☆ I can mount and dismount correctly and safely. Even if I have to use the mounting block, or have my instructor give me a leg up, I know it is important to get on and off a pony carefully.
- ☆ I can demonstrate a basic balanced position while my pony is walking and standing still. I know that a bad position is dangerous for me and uncomfortable for my pony, so I always work hard to keep my eyes up, heels down, and "building blocks" in place!
- ☆ I can pick up the reins and hold them correctly, at a suitable length.
- ☆ I can perform the star stretches and warm-up exercises at the walk, on the leadline. (This means someone is holding onto my pony to help me steer him.)
- ☆ I can go Around the World.
- ☆ I can demonstrate how I use my aids (my seat, legs, hands and voice) to ask my pony to walk, halt, and turn.
- ☆ I can walk once all the way around the arena without a leadline.
- ☆ I can ride in a balanced two-point position at the halt and the walk.
- ☆ I can walk my pony over ground poles, showing a good jumping position, keeping my eyes up and riding straight over the middle of each pole.
- ☆ I can ride the trot on the leadline. I can ride both a sitting trot and a posting trot, holding on to the saddle if necessary. I can keep up a steady rhythm at the posting trot, so it is comfortable for both me and my pony.
- ☆ I can tell you why it is important to cool out my pony after hard work, and help take care of him after a ride.
- ☆ I can feed a treat to a quiet pony safely. I know why it can be dangerous to feed a pony too many treats, and always ask permission.
- ☆ I have helped an experienced horseperson clean out a stall. I know why it is important to clean out a pony's stall and water buckets every day.