

# Horse Safety

**Objective:** Students will learn the basics of equine behavior and practice the safety rules for working around horses.

## Background:

While horses are large animals, some can be easily frightened. Because of their large size, a frightened horse can have a reaction that is also large, and people can be hurt if they are not careful to respect this beautiful animal. In this lesson students will learn some basic horse behavior and safety rules for working around horses.

- 1) Read the following background to the students and introduce the **KEY SAFETY WORDS** to them (have them written on the board).

Is it nicer to be around a person who talks quietly to you, or is it nicer to be around someone who yells at you? (Ask for answers. Show the first key word – **SOFTLY**)

All horses like someone who has a nice, quiet voice. It keeps them from becoming scared of you and helps them to like you.

Horses do not see the same way that we do this is why we always work slowly. (Show the next key word – **SLOWLY**)

If you jump around, run around or wave your arms around, the horse will be frightened of you and it will take much longer for you to be friends.

Do you like mean people or kind, nice people? (Ask for answers and examples to help students participate in discussion.) Do dogs like mean people or nice, kind people? (Ask for answers. Show next key word – **KINDLY**).

All animals and people like kindness. Being nice and gentle to the horse helps him to be your friend. They want to be your friend and will be your friend if you are kind to them.

- 2) Have student fill out the worksheet to learn more about horse safety. For younger grades instead of the worksheet have them practice how to Talk Softly, Walk Slowly, and Pat Kindly. They can also color the attached coloring sheet.

*Background information from 4H "Growing with Horses" Leader Booklet*

**Grade: K-5<sup>th</sup>**

## NYS Learning Standards

**ELA: 1:1e, 4:1e**

## Materials

**Student Worksheets**

## Vocabulary

**Blind Spot** – An area around a person or animal where vision is blocked.

**Emotion** - A type of feeling that affects how you behave, such as anger, happiness or sadness.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Horse Safety

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## Safety Scramble

When around horses....

TALK (LSTOFY) \_\_\_\_\_

WALK (WLYOSL) \_\_\_\_\_

PAT (DIKNLY) \_\_\_\_\_

**Horse Expressions** – Just like us, horses show us their emotions with their faces. Draw a line matching the emotion (and picture) with the correct description.

Ears pinned back, nostrils flared, whites of eyes showing.
Face relaxed, ears following sounds
Eyes bright, ears pricked forward
Eyes and ears drooping, looking down

Bored



Relaxed



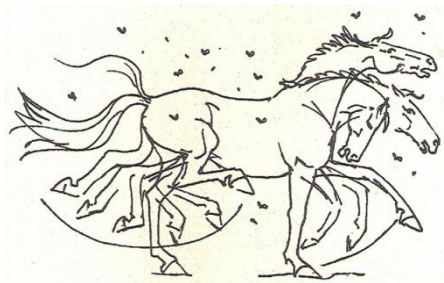
Excited



Angry/Upset



**Never touch a horse that looks Angry!**

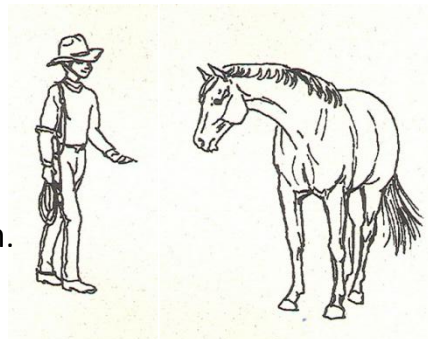


**NEVER STAND DIRECTLY BEHIND OR IN FRONT  
OF A HORSE!!**

Horses have “blind spots” in front of their nose and directly behind them, if you stand there they will not see you and could get scared and kick you with their hooves or hit you with their head!

**The Correct Way to Approach a Horse:**

1. Talk to the horse with a quiet voice.
2. Go up to the horse SLOWLY so he can see you.
3. Pet the horse on the shoulder and neck.
4. Do not stand too close to his head or behind him.



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**HORSE SAFETY REVIEW**

1. Never approach a horse who looks \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Talk to the horse with a \_\_\_\_\_ voice.
3. Always move \_\_\_\_\_ around a horse. Don't jump around or wave your hands.
4. Pet horse on the \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Horses have 2 \_\_\_\_\_ directly in front and behind them - NEVER stand here or you may be injured.

# When Around Horses....



**Speak Softly, Walk Slowly &  
Pat Gently**

## Teacher Answer Sheet:

### Safety Scramble:

1. Softly
2. Slowly
3. Kindly

### Horse Expressions

**Angry/Upset** - Ears pinned back, nostrils flared, whites of eyes showing.

**Excited** - Eyes bright, ears pricked forward

**Bored** - Eyes and ears drooping, looking down

**Relaxed** - Face relaxed, ears following sounds

### Horse Safety Review

1. Never approach a horse that looks angry.
2. Talk to the horse with a soft voice.
3. Always move slowly around a horse. Don't jump around or wave your hands.
4. Pet horse on the shoulders & neck.
5. Horses have 2 blind spots directly in front and behind them - NEVER stand here or you may be injured.