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# FINESSE EQUESTRIAN

HOW TO BUY THE DREAM PONY // A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



**9 key steps**

to making sure your kids will be  
safe and have fun!



Listen to your gut!

If you have that deep down

feeling that something

is not quite right,

or that you know this

pony is the one,

**listen to it!**



# FROM THE GET GO

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## 'Green Ponies'

Unfortunately, my non-horsey parents were sucked into buying a green pony as my first horse... and I am sure they weren't the only ones.

Even quiet green ponies require a lot of training in knowledgeable and experienced hands to get them suitable for kids to be able to go out and have fun while being safe.

## Personality Types

Be aware of personality types. Unless you have a very experienced child (or you are experienced to help them), most kids are better to have a pony that isn't 'hot' or flighty by nature.

A cooler personality with more whoa than go is far better suited to help build confidence in kids.

## Big Bits and Martingales

Look for ponies that can be ridden in a plain Snaffle or KK Training Bit, and are soft and responsive in it.

If they have to have a strong bit it means they are more 'go than whoa', and the flight reaction is taking over, which equates to a stressed out pony and high risk of accidents!

Martingales are also something to stay away from, many people try to use these to force the head down but what this means is the horse is tense and not using its body correctly.

Any gadgets to 'force' things are not a good sign.



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# FROM THE GROUND

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Does the Pony Have Good Manners?

But what does that even mean? Sometimes we see horses with an ad that says 'has perfect ground manners', but it can't stand still in the tie-ups, is pushy and in your bubble, is leading you on the ground or you're having to put all your weight into pulling it along... I don't know about you but I wouldn't say these are good manners at all!

One of the biggest things you want to make sure on the ground is that the pony is respectful of your space and not pushy in the slightest, but also not scared of people either. They should lead nicely, both at your side and behind - coming forward off a light pressure on the lead. They should tie up and stand quietly. If the leading is good, generally they won't pull back tied up.

Good ground work also = easy to load on the float.

Body Language

Get to know horse body language and what a relaxed happy horse looks like.

Look out for tense muscles, high heads, non-blinking eyes and shallow breathing.

Soft muscles, soft eyes, a droopy lip and leg crooked are good signs!





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# FROM ON TOP

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## Is the Pony Relaxed

Can it maintain rhythm on a loose rein - especially without speeding up?

If it slows down this is preferable for a child's pony as it is easier to teach go than it is to teach slow (and safer too).

## Is the Pony Spooky?

For a kids pony, it is important that they are not easily spooked.

They should be relaxed about seeing things such as plastic bags flapping around, umbrellas popping up, walking over tarpaulin, or loud noises.

## Is the Pony Focused?

Eyes on stalks and looking into the distance at umm something?! Is not a good indicator for a focused pony.

Look to see that they are present and relaxed - horses that are unfocused tend to spook easily!

Contact us if you have any more questions about finding the right pony, or head on over to the sale page to see if any of our ponies suit you and your child!

