



# Attributes of ASHA Clinicians

**1. HELPFUL:** ASHA Clinicians should want to help people ride a better horse. You must have a genuine concern for people and their horses. If it looks like you are there for personal gain, the people in your clinic will pick up on it and you will not be effective as a teacher.

**2. POSITIVE:** Accept people and their horses where they are and try to move them forward. A condescending attitude will turn people off before you even get a chance to help them. Have a positive attitude!

- Remember that these people have signed up for your clinic and this is an indication they are looking for help and want to get better. They expect you to help them.
- As you begin to teach them, try to avoid overusing the “I” or “me” words. Some personal experiences are necessary and good but people need to know that what you are teaching are not just your personal opinions, but are accepted throughout the industry. Using the statement that “most good horsemen would do it this way” is good and helps establish your credibility.
- Teach what you know. Everybody can help somebody.

**3. STICK TO THE BASICS:** Teach the basics before going to the more finished techniques. Realize that excellence is simply having a real mastery of the basics.

- Teach a lot of rider skills such as the correct use of hands, legs, feet and body position. Assure people they are on the right track and will get where they want to be with time if they will only give the system a chance. Personal reference to somebody you have seen develop as a horseman over time is always good. Testimony by that person is even better. Some improvement will be seen clinic day while others will take time.
- Be careful when recommending that people need a better trained horse. This may be true, but people came for help on the horse they own. Very seldom is a horse so bad (safety excluded) that a rider can't learn something by trying to improve the horse. If they do eventually wind up with a better horse, they will be better prepared to use it as a result of what they learned with the first one. Publicly recognize the smallest improvement.
- People learn from riding with other people. Assure your clinic people you have come to ride with them today and let's have some fun! Education and improvement is intoxicating, behavior change is sometimes slow and takes place over time and is directly related to the amount of correct practice and repetition.