



Horseback Riding for Young Children

By Cynthia Purnomo

We have three young children (3, 4.5 and 7 year-olds) and it's a constant challenge for us to entertain them every Sunday....of course they've conquered Jamboree land, Yoyo Land and all other "lands" but we also want them to use up their energy on something new, challenging and meaningful.

Then we found this great horseback riding place called Bangkok Saddle Club, which specializes in teaching children 4 years and up to ride horse properly. They're just starting this year and there are now 7 ponies to serve the purpose.

They're teaching the children not only to ride, but also how to groom the ponies, saddle them, make friends with them and give the ponies a shower after the ride. They even share books about horses and encourage the children to learn more about horses and riding through books. The children really love their new experience and they concentrate on their lessons so well.

Each lesson is one hour and consists of 10 minutes horse care and 50 minutes riding. I don't know anything about good horse riding and can't tell between good way of teaching to the bad one, but the two trainers that they have there (one Australian-trained and the other US-trained) seem to be really passionate with the task and the children have responded to them so well. And most importantly for us is that the children are enjoying themselves and we have our

perfect Sunday afternoon.

The facility is not huge, but it's clean and the riding area has shade on it, so we don't need to worry about the sun. They provide safety helmet for riders but if you prefer your children to wear their own, you can also buy them there. There is also a viewing room upstairs with air conditioning, so the parents can watch the children riding while sitting comfortably inside.

You need to become a member to start a lesson, which is B1500 per month or B10,000 per year, and you also need to pay a lesson fee of B500 per hour for a group lesson (not more than 6 participants) or B1,000 for a private lesson. For first visit, you can try riding for B200 per 15 minutes before you decide to become a member. I can't say it's cheap but my kids are having the time of their lives!! So we will just have to adjust frequency with our pockets!

For more information regarding location, trainers, special fees, etc., visit www.bangkokssaddleclub.com or email them at theoffice@bangkokssaddleclub.com. They are open every day from 8 am to 7 pm, but it's best to make appointment before you visit them through 02-9957751.

It must be obvious by now that I'm not very talented in describing the children's feelings and experience, but hopefully you can get some more idea through the pictures here. Have a great riding experience!

www.bangkokssaddleclub.com

