

## **Initial Evaluation of Riders Handout --Sue Adams**

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### **Other PATH Intl CEU Approved Workshops Available**

1. Be sure all the paperwork is in order before the evaluation date is scheduled. If they are to bring it with them and forget, have parent sign liability release FIRST before the rider mounts.
2. Observe the rider from the car to the evaluation area. What do you see that will influence how you perform the evaluation?
3. Be sure to have rider meet and greet the 'team' before mounting. This includes the evaluator, volunteers and the horse.
4. Don't let the paperwork limit the evaluation. Always have a 'can do' attitude towards your rider.
5. Have horse tacked and ready with either a saddle or bareback pad/surcingle prior to arrival of rider.
6. Allow the rider to take as much time as necessary to get acclimated to the area, new people and the horse. Age consideration = stress level and anxiety level.
7. Have all tools for the evaluation in the ring prior to the arrival of the rider.
8. Mounting and dismounting is the most critical part of the evaluation for following directions and safety. Slow and steady.
9. Evaluate posture and alignment within the first 5 minutes. After that the horse has already started changing them.
10. Set a standard evaluation for consistency. Also, create an evaluation for riders who are lower functioning.

From the evaluation results, note what type of horse movement works best for the rider, what equipment will be needed, suggested exercises for upper and lower body improvement and what short and long term goals are suggested for the rider. Then select the appropriate instructor for the rider and give the evaluation sheet to that person.

