

I First joined the Dressage4kids TEAM in November of 2020 I brought my 4-year-old Welsh Hunter pony hoping to get some help with tidying everything we had worked on up. I had never really thought about riding dressage and had only really done Hunter/jumper and trained ponies but the opportunity came up as a good learning experience. Since the clinic in November was over the weekend unfortunately it was only 2 days, but in those 2 days, I learned so much. I was new to D4K and everyone was so welcoming and willing to help me. This February I had been searching for another clinic going into the summer. The April D4K seemed like perfect timing and it was during our Spring Break so I didn't have to miss too much school. Living in Maine Without an indoor I hadn't been able to do a lot over the winter but light school's where ever it was dry enough.

At the clinic, we got all set up, although I was the youngest there I was able to make some friends. On the first day once we arrived everyone did chores and took care of their horse before we went on a field trip a couple of miles down the road, we got to see another barn's facility and a normal day at their barn, they walked us through what they were doing and why they were doing it. They showed us exercises that they use all the time that help the majority of their horses. We were also able to see how different each of the horses are and how sometimes the same exercise can work for every single one of them.

Once we got back we had our first lesson. Lendon has us start at just our normal warm-up and build a lesson off of that. We worked a lot on getting my pony to have better bend and moving off of my leg. Once we established that we made sure I could put it to use in different gates, exercises, and scenarios.



At the end of my lesson, I put my pony away, coming back to the ring to watch other's lessons and take notes. After evening chores we had a meeting with Lendon explaining the schedule and overall plan for the next 6 days. Every day we had at least one lecture whether it was about creating a freestyle or Equine Herpes Virus. It was very important to anyone who deals with horses. The first day wasn't overwhelmingly busy, unlike some clinics where you get there and you're rushing to get your horse settled in, and then you have a lecture in 5 minutes. the schedule is very organized and Lendon made sure to warn us if there was a change in schedule before we got to that point the clinic ran like a well-oiled machine. I found that every lecture Was equally as important. I also like how Lendon was very willing to take what you had into consideration for the exercise that she gave you I like how she makes sure that you know the key building blocks before you got older and don't know the really important things and there are too many big holes.



I also like how if Lendon's not there there's always someone that can help you, give you a hand with something or answer questions during this April Clinic, unfortunately, Megan was not able to be there but in her place, Alyssa was there and was able to answer just as many questions I was also able to ask questions to the girls who have been part of the D4K team for multiple years some of the people are the same that I saw last year.

Since the Clinic, I have made dramatic improvements in hunters and dressage I have shown my pony in both hunter and dressage shows doing pretty well in both.



I also found a 14-year-old dressage horse that I have brought to local shows and done intro tests with, I am hoping to start showing training levels in the spring.

