

Horsey Rides (collection of lap songs)

Engage & excite at the same time as you're practicing rhythm, following verbal cues, making lots of eye contact and using appropriate touch. This "old-timey" activity re-enforces adult/ child bonding and has been a favorite in my parent/child classes since day one! Start with the child on your lap, facing away from you.

**Ride a little horsey down to town,
Better be careful so you don't fall DOWN!**

Gently bounce child on lap, hold on to waist and gently tip child over knees on "DOWN!"

**Rickety rickety rocking horse, over the fields we go
Rickety rickety rocking horse
Giddy-up, giddy-up, WHOA!**

With child on lap, alternate lifting one knee, then the other – child gets a side-to-side rocking ride! Pull child toward you in a hug for "Whoa!"

**Shoe a little horsey, shoe a little mare
But let the little pony go bare, bare, bare!**

Teacher can pat child's foot on the beat, or child can do it themselves. One foot, then repeat with the other foot, then BOTH feet – soles together! Great steady beat work!

**Ride a little horsey down to town
Better be careful so you don't fall DOWN!**

Yup – repeat this one – it's a fav!

This is the way the ladies ride:

Side che che, to side che che

Side che che, to side che che

And this is the way the gentlemen ride: Front che che, to back che che

Front che che, to back che che

And this is the way the country boys ride: (bounce while dada dum'ing the William Tell Overture! End with a whee!)

Start with child facing you, legs a-straddle. Gentle bounce on first line.

Lean child to side, switch to other side (che che), repeat. Straight-up bounce again for gentlemen, rocking child toward you for "front" and away from you for "back".

For the "country boys" look excitedly at child and get ready to gallop – it's a wild ride! End by sliding your hand under child's head and tipping them backward – whee! – then back up again! Please support their neck! Turn the child around to face outward again for the next song.

**Walk ol' Joe, walk ol' Joe,
You walk better'n'any horse I know
Walk ol' Joe, walk ol' Joe
You walk better'n'any horse I know.
Whoa, Joe! Whoa, Joe!**

Gentle bounce on verse, then slide hands under child's thighs, head tucked into your shoulder, and lift their bottoms up on Whoa, Joe, and again, "Whoa, Joe!"

Then trot. Then gallop It's a blast! There's a young man out there named "Joe" because his brother liked this song so much!

1 – 2- 3! Janey's on my knee!

Rooster crows, and away she goes!

This is the dismount! 6 bounces on the beat of the first line. Then stick one leg out straight, then the other. Slide child down your legs to the floor.

If you have a group of kids that want "Horsey Rides" they must learn to take turns. Do 1-2 rhymes, then change who's on your lap. It's been my experience that they will happily wait for a turn – and tap and bounce along while waiting!