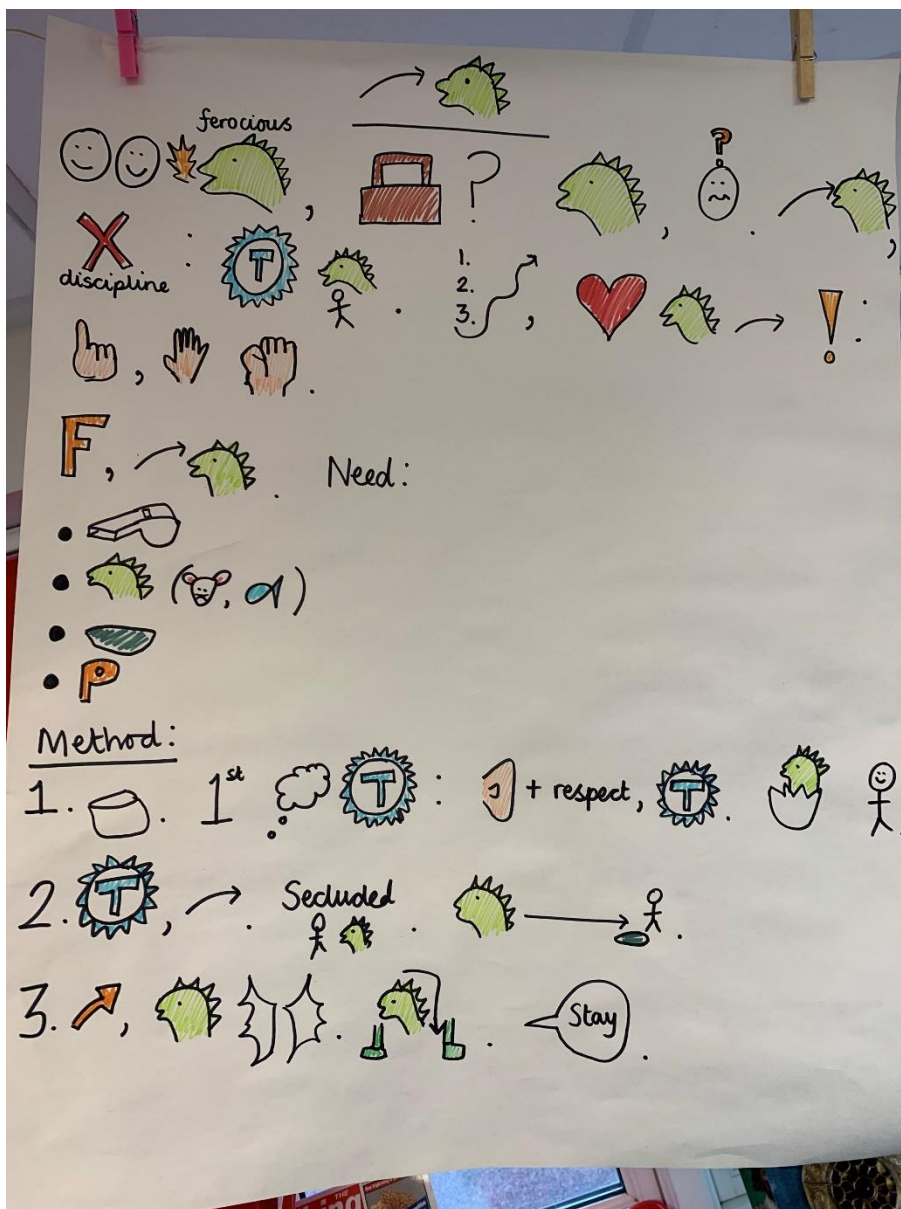


How to Train Your Dragon

Instructions



If you were face to face with a ferocious, fire-breathing dragon, would you be ready and equipped? Dragons aren't a familiar animal to many, especially not amateurs. When it comes to training a dragon, it isn't about discipline or forcing them to obey you: it is about the trust between the dragon and the owner. If you follow these instructions wisely, you will be able to develop a special, unique bond with your dragon and train it to respond to the crucial commands you will need to give: come, stay and fight.

Fortunately, all of the items you need in order to successfully train your dragon are readily available. You will need the following:

- A whistle
- Dragon food (mice, rats, fish and other small creatures)
- A flat, even rock
- Patience

Method:

1. After you've collected all the items above, you are ready to begin. Firstly, remember that this training is all about building trust with your dragon; if you want your dragon to listen and respect you, it is essential that you build

trust immediately. Where possible, handle the hatching of your dragon, so they become used to human contact from the second they are born.

2. Once the trust is built, you are in a good position to begin the training. Find a secluded area – far away from other humans and dragons – before you start. When you are both ready to begin (it might be necessary to ask for help from an experienced trainer or Rider if your dragon is older than three years) stand a distance away from your dragon, next to a flat, even rock.
3. After this, you'll need to teach the dragon to fly. In order to do this, you will need to be able to pick the young reptile up from behind, making sure you position your legs either side of the animal. Use a clear, confident voice to state "Stay" repetitively so that the dragon understands that you are saying a command.
4. Once you are able to handle the dragon in a secure manner, you must now hold the beast up in the air and again say in your clear, confident voice, "Fly". It is important that you don't use a weak voice or the dragon will have no respect for you.
5. Slowly and carefully, take your dragon's favourite much-loved, delicious food and hold it in an outstretched hand. Because you will be holding their favourite option, they will recognise the item and want to come towards you.
6. Next, blow the whistle sharply three times and say 'come' in a firm voice. You may have to repeat this step if your dragon doesn't respond instantly; try using different tones of voice to see which your dragon responds best to.
7. If your command of 'come' is successful, your dragon should fly towards you; when it does this, instantly reward it by dropping the marvellous food on to the stone – it isn't recommended to let the dragon eat directly from your hand (for obvious reasons – it is a dragon after all!).

Remember that all of these steps must be completed while the dragon is young or they may not work! Dragon training requires commitment but the more you nurture your dragon, the more it will repay you with trust and loyalty and follow your orders.