

Raising Dogs and Kids Together

(A Guide for Thoughtful Pet Parents)

Simple Steps to Keep Everyone Safe,
Happy, and Connected

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Hello and Welcome!

When you imagined raising a puppy and a family together, you probably pictured a happy, wagging tail, a child's laughter, and a lifelong bond growing right before your eyes.

And that can happen — but only with the right foundation.

The truth is, even the sweetest, most tolerant dogs have limits. As a parent — to your human and canine kids — understanding those limits is the key to keeping everyone safe and building a relationship built on trust, respect, and love.

In this guide, you'll learn:

- How to create healthy boundaries between kids and dogs
- How to recognize when your dog needs space
- Safe, positive ways to encourage interactions
- What to teach your child about respecting a dog's body and emotions

There's no such thing as a dog bite "out of nowhere."

There's only communication — and the opportunity to listen before it's too late.



4 Rules Every Family Should Know



1. Respect the Dog's Space

Every dog needs a "safe zone" — a crate, a quiet room, or a cozy corner where they can retreat and relax without being disturbed.

Teach your child:

- The crate is always off-limits.
- If the dog walks away, you don't follow.

This simple boundary helps your dog feel safe in your home — and prevents fear-based reactions before they ever start.

2. Leave Dogs Alone While Eating

Even the most gentle dog can feel protective over food.

When dogs are eating:

- No petting, playing, or approaching.
- Feed dogs in a calm, secure space away from distractions.

Would you want someone poking at you during your favorite meal? Neither does your dog.

3. Gentle Hands, Always

Young kids don't always understand the difference between playful and overwhelming. That's where you come in.

Teach them:

- Pet softly with open hands — no pulling fur, ears, or tails.
- Always wait for the dog to come to you for affection.

A simple rule:

Three gentle pets, then pause.

If the dog stays, they want more. If they walk away, they're done.

4. Personal Space Matters

Dogs aren't stuffed animals. Hugging, lying on, or sitting on a dog can feel scary or threatening — even if the dog "tolerates" it.

Instead, show your child better ways to show love:

- Play together
- Train simple skills
- Offer gentle pets when invited

Affection is safest — and most meaningful — when it respects your dog's comfort.



Understanding Dog Body Language

Before a bite ever happens, dogs always give warning signs.

Subtle signals include:

- Lip licking
- Yawning
- Turning the head away

More obvious signs:

- Stiff body
- Tucked tail
- Pinned ears
- Growling or snarling

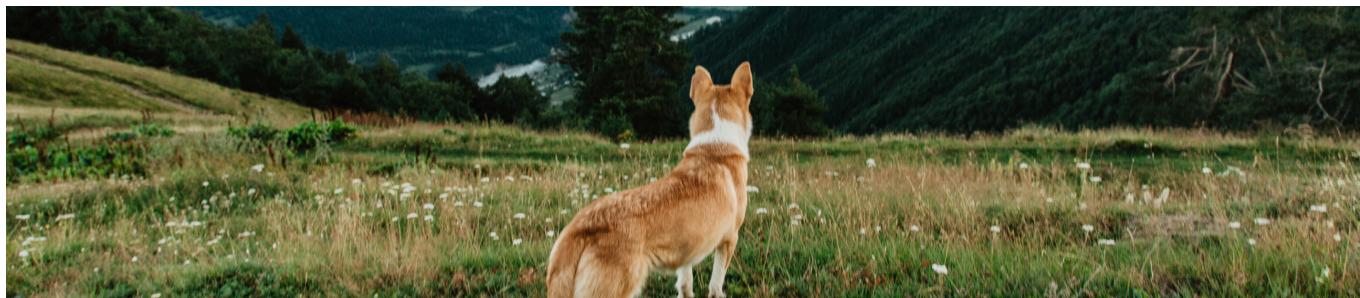
Important:

Growling is not bad behavior — it's communication.

If your dog growls, they are saying, "I'm uncomfortable."

Respect that warning, and step in to help your dog feel safe again.

Punishing a growl doesn't make the problem go away — it only removes the warning.



Safe, Fun Ways Kids Can Build a Bond with Your Dog

Three easy, supervised activities that create positive connections

1. Hide & Seek

Have your child hide with a treat and call your dog's name. Celebrate when your dog finds them! Builds confidence and recall. But remember dogs can't open doors & no jumping out when they find you!

2. Cup Game

Hide a treat under one of three plastic cups. Let your dog sniff and search while your child cheers them on. Also a great confidence builder for your dog. Fun for both!

3. Train Together

Teach simple cues like "sit," "touch," or "down." Kids love feeling empowered — and dogs love the clarity.

Thank you!

Your dog and your child are both learning — about the world, about each other, and about trust.

You're not just raising a dog or a child.

You're raising a relationship — one rooted in calm, confidence, and connection.

You don't have to do it perfectly.

You just have to do it thoughtfully.

And that's exactly why you're here.



Do You Need More Help?

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