

Tricks for Kids

Provide your kids with 'No Dogs' spaces

Then, you're not constantly telling your kids to 'not do' this and that. Instead, you can ask them to 'do this, here'.

Have these spaces both indoors and outdoors. Now, that ball game doesn't frustrate everyone in the house, and bits of Lego don't end up in vet bills, when Fido eats the latest dinosaur construction.

Many children are bitten by dogs each year. And it's usually by the family dog. When it isn't, it's usually the dog of a friend

When kids meet, they are usually joyful and excited. They laugh and scream, move erratically etc.

If your dog gets stressed or overexcited by new people entering the home, (does he bark a lot, pace a lot, jump around, pick things up in his mouth?); then put him in a separate room that the kids can't accidentally access, and give him an activity, such as a snuffle mat or a chew toy.

You might put a sign on your front door, letting people know you have a dog.

Equally, before you bring your child to a friend's house, check if they have a dog. Ask what safety measures they are taking for the visit. If they will be mixing, ensure your child is comfortable about this. Check that your friend's dog is o.k. around small children and that play will be supervised.

Brief your child so they know how to behave around the dog.

Useful and easy rules, for young children meeting dogs they don't know

Number 1. If a dog runs towards them, they should stand like a tree and look away from the dog. Running away is what triggers chasing.

Number 2. Before petting a dog, always ask the owner if it's o.k. to do it. Many dogs don't like/are afraid of children, or don't like to be touched by strangers.

Number 3. When you stroke a dog, stand to the side of him, stroke from the shoulder. Use one, flat hand. Don't lean over the dog, or stroke it on the head.

Never leave your child and a dog together, unsupervised. If you cannot supervise, then separate

