

## The Best Ways To Get Kids Involved With Training A New Dog



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Training a new pet can be challenging, but it's important to get the [family involved](#) so that bonding can take place, especially when the children are young. Kids are almost always eager to help out and play with the new pet, so take the opportunity to allow them to help you with their training by providing food or treats and having them get involved.

"Training is a great way to build a relationship between kids and dogs. Children will learn how to communicate clearly with the family dog, and the dog learns to respond to cues from kids and not just adults," says trainer [Laura Garber](#).

While it's still a good idea to leave the more complicated training processes to the adults, kids can be involved in teaching the pet how to sit, stay, and come to them with the aid of treats or food. Make sure your child knows to say, "Good boy!" or "Good girl!" once the pet has accomplished the task at hand and let them give lots of affection to the animal as praise. This can help strengthen the bond between child and animal and will help the pet learn trust.

It's imperative that you and the other adults in the family model the right behavior when it comes to how to treat the pet, and this includes taking care of the dog's everyday needs. Show your

children how to feed, pet, and groom the dog and let them get involved in the caregiving. It's also important that you teach your child not to respond negatively if the animal nips at their hand during feeding or won't respond to a command, but that they report the behavior to you instead. Set firm rules before training begins about the right way to treat the dog, such as no hitting or pushing, no touching food after the dog begins to eat, and no taking away toys during playtime.

Allowing kids to get involved in the dog's [exercise routine](#) is another great opportunity for bonding, as long as there are safety guidelines. Always use a leash when taking the pet outside; if your child is young and the dog is big, consider placing a leash for you to hold and another for your child to hold so they can feel like they are a part of the routine. Walk in parks or quiet residential areas for safety's sake, and warn your kids to keep the dog away from animals you aren't familiar with.

Dogs often get a lot of [attention from strangers](#), especially if they are small and cute, so try to prepare your pet for it all by rubbing their ears, gently tugging on their tail, and scratching their head. This type of touch mimics what a child or stranger might do and helps them become accustomed to the attention; it's important to give the pet a small treat while you touch them to ensure they understand your intent and tolerate it in the future.

Finally, teach your children that animals don't always want treats or affection. When they are sleeping, or playing on their own, for instance, it's not the right time to give them a big hug. Teach boundaries and help them see that pets have their own personalities and needs.