

RYKER KID & DOG INTERACTION TIPS

KEY POINTS

- Supervise interactions between dogs and kids **AT ALL TIMES.**
- Advocate for both kids and dogs needing their personal space.
- Give your dog a break from kids when needed.

LOOK FOR SIGNS IN YOUR DOG

When your dog is interacting with kids, be sure to look for signs of stress, fear, or anxiety (these signs can be subtle):

 **Panting**

 **Yawning**

 **Moving Away**

 **Cowering**

 **Eyes open wide enough to see the whites**

 **Licking Lips**

 **Holding Breath**

 **Staring Intensely**

 **Ears Pinned Back**

 **Suddenly Holding Still**



WHAT TO TEACH CHILDREN

- Kids are not allowed to sit, lay, or stand on dogs.
- Dogs should be pet in a gentle manner (no yanking on the dog's ears or other body parts).
- Just like humans, dogs need personal space. Some dogs don't appreciate snuggles or being held.
- Teach kids (if age appropriate) to enforce commands.
- Do not disturb the dog if the dog is laying on a bed, in their crate, or sleeping.
- Do not run up to dogs and pet them (even if you know the dog). Dog's don't appreciate being rushed at and it can scare them.
- **Always** ask the dog's owner for permission to pet their dog (even if you already know the dog). Not all dogs are good with kids.

WHAT TO TEACH DOGS

- Respect boundaries and space. Do not let the dog herd or push children around.
- Provide an area for dog to be able to decompress and relax where they won't be disturbed by kids such as their bed or crate.
- Dogs should be calm when interacting with kids.
- Dogs shouldn't mouth, nip, bite or nibble at kids or adults.
- No jumping on people.

