BE DOG SMART!

Here are tips to remind kids how to prevent dog bites.

**B**eware of disturbing dogs that are eating or sleeping

**E**ven if for fun, don’t ever tease a dog please

**D**on’t approach a dog with no owner around

**O**nly stroke a dog when the owner says ‘Yes, you can’

**G**et the dog to sniff your hand first, then stroke gently

**S**trange dog approaching? Stand still, look away, cross your arms

**M**ove calmly and quietly around any dog

**A**ll that hugging and kissing – you might like it, not all dogs do.

**R**emember all dogs have teeth

**T**reat dogs with kindness and respect

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HELPING EVERYONE BE DOG SMART!

Dogs Trust are offering FREE workshops for parents and children to ensure children and dogs can live together safely and happily at home and in the community!

If you would like to arrange a Be Dog Smart workshop at your local school, community or leisure centre visit: [www.bedogsmart.org.uk](http://www.bedogsmart.org.uk) and contact your local Education and Community Officer.

We also offer a free comprehensive Be Dog Smart guide. It contains in-depth information about dog’s cues and signals, to advice on how to prepare your dog for the arrival of a new baby.

To download our Be Dog Smart guide, please visit [www.bedogsmart.org.uk](http://www.bedogsmart.org.uk)

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Dogs come in all shapes, sizes, and personalities - and most of us, especially children, would find it difficult to believe that a friendly looking dog would ever intentionally hurt anyone.

But the simple fact is that all dogs have teeth and any dog could bite or snap if worried, scared or hurt. So, dog owners or not, it is important we all know and teach our children how to behave around dogs.

Owning and being around dogs has so many wonderful benefits and can be so much fun for kids - with a little foresight and research you can easily ensure that all your family members are dog smart!

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Owning and being around dogs has so many wonderful benefits and can be so much fun for kids - with a little foresight and research you can easily ensure that all your family members are dog smart!
The relationship between a dog and its family is special. Unfortunately when a child gets bitten, it’s often a dog they know and often in the place they least expect — in their own home.

The number one rule is simple: Never leave your child alone with a dog — any dog from the smallest to the largest, even the most friendly, cute and cuddly dogs might bite if provoked.

Dogs, like humans, have a level of tolerance, which we MUST respect. They can get over excited and the dog might nip because they think the child wants to play.

Remember, these are just a few easy to spot signs of stress. We all should know that a dog is a living creature that thinks, feels and gets frightened just like us.

The most common mistake people make when it comes to our four legged friends, is forgetting that a dog is a living creature that thinks, feels and gets frightened just like us. Like humans, dogs have a level of tolerance, which we MUST respect.

Children who are shaking, shivering and sweating are usually really nervous. Dogs sometimes get over excited and the dog might nip because they think the child wants to play.

From the smallest to the largest, even the most friendly, cute and cuddly dogs might bite if provoked.

The number one rule is simple 'Never leave your child alone with a dog' — any dog from the smallest to the largest.

Parents should be encouraged to leave them alone at these times. Dogs, like us, need their space or they could react badly.

Let sleeping dogs lie! Don’t wake a dog that is resting or asleep, even if you think your dog should be woken. A dog who is sleeping or resting is usually much less reactive than an alert dog.

Approaching a new dog

Always ask the owner for permission before touching a dog.

Ask the owner where the dog likes to be stroked. Stroke the dog gently with the back of your hand where the owner has suggested.

Always ask the owner for permission before touching a dog.

Always stroke gently rather than patting or rubbing up and down.

Invading dog’s space

Dogs react the same way if they feel they are being invaded or invaded. Stroking a dog who is eating food or a toy, kids should never try to take it away because the child is likely to provoke a growl or snap to get them over excited and the dog might nip because they think the child wants to play.

Teasing a dog

Teasing a dog can make it angry or frustrated until an adult comes to help, before you walk away and look away from the dog. Stand still in a confident upright position and look away from the dog.

Ear pulling/Eye poking

Small children particularly may pull at the ears or eyes of a dog, which can hurt and irritate the dog. Teach your child never to do this as a hurt or worried dog might bite.

If a dog knocks you over

If a dog knocks you over, curl up in a ball, like a hedgehog! Cover your face and head with your arms and stay like this until an adult comes to help, before you walk away slowly and calmly.

If a dog approaches you

Stand in a confident upright position and look away from the dog. Do not crouch down as the dog may not understand what you are doing.

If you are holding a ball or food, throw them gently away from you.

If you are holding a ball or food, throw them gently away from you. If you can, turn so the dog can’t see your hand. If you are unable to do that, slowly and calmly walk away and look away from the dog. The dog may not understand what you are doing.

If a dog jumps at you

If a dog is jumping at you, cross your arms over your chest and keep your fingers tucked in. If you can, turn so the dog sees your back, so it is less threatening to the dog.

Stand still in a confident upright position and look away from the dog. Wait for the dog’s owner or an adult to come and help, before you walk away slowly and calmly.

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