

Welcome to the
The Dog Safe Workplace's
Dog Safe 4 Kids
Education Programme



This education programme is designed for parents, grandparents, teacher, caregivers and your community so you can get an overview about our organisation and a guide on how to deliver the programs to children of all ages and hopefully you will learn something too.

How We Started The Dog Safe Workplace

The Dog Safe Workplace was created to help reduce the number of dog related incidents that occur when workers (employees, contractors, labour hire, and volunteers) enter premises where dogs may be present.

By providing a deep understanding of canine behaviour, we enable workers to accurately recognise and interpret dog signals. This knowledge empowers them to proactively mitigate risks and ensure their safety when encountering dogs on the job.

We started researching and developing the course in 2014 after 2 years of research and development we formed the company The Dog Safe Workplace. We are proud to say we have made a difference for all our clients with one stating they have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of dog incidents, going from 105 in 2013 to 8 in 2022.

Dog Safe 4 Kids

We started working with children at the same time as we started The Dog Safe Workplace. We formed a charity in 2016 and prior to COVID we had a team of educators who would go into schools and teach the program. Unfortunately we had to close the charity down during lockdown but Jo Clough the Director of The Dog Safe Workplace and one of the founders of the charity purchased the IP and we are now finding ways of being able to offer the programs again.

When creating the programme we took it to Massey University to be peer reviewed by Dr Kirsty Ross, PhD, Senior Clinical Psychologies and Senior Lecturer. She loved the program stated that not only were they age appropriate but essential learning for children of all ages.



Our Aim

Our aim is to educate children on how to interact with dogs safely with the goal of reducing dog bites in New Zealand and around the world.

The younger children love Jelly and our other cartoon characters and this makes it easy for them to remember the programmes we teach. We get the children to identify with the characters by using scenarios of 'How would you feel if...' this encourages and teaches empathy.

The older kids (intermediate and college) also respond well to the characters but as they are older we incorporate photographs of situations and dogs rather than just using cartoon characters.

It is primarily important that any education on dog bite prevention is up to date so we pride ourselves on using the latest research to produce our programmes. Our programmes are also regularly updated as new expertise is discovered.

Deed Not Breed

All dogs have teeth, any dog has the potential to bite if they are put in the wrong situation, we do not discriminate because of a dogs breed but instead listen to its behaviour. Deed not breed.



Health & Safety

If you are a teacher or work in a school where you will be delivering these programs please ensure that you follow your school's Health & Safety policy at all times. Report any accidents, injuries or incidents immediately.

If you are taking your dog into any school or educational facility please ensure that your dog is temperament tested by a qualified canine behaviourist. Just because your dog is happy at home does not mean it will be happy in a strange environment or around children that it does not know.

The Characters



Jelly

Jelly is a rescue dog who has lots of friends and helps children learn all about dogs



Keira

Keira is a very playful rescue dog. She loves playing with puppies and doing tricks for yummy treats



Norman

Norman is a Newfoundland. He is very big and weighs 86kg! He is a gentle giant that likes to relax



Sirius

Sirius is a spoodle. He is the trouble maker of the group who likes to steal the other dogs toys!



Duchess

Duchess is an Afghan hound. She is very pretty and likes to have her fur brushed and is a bit spoilt



Dr. Fix

Dr. Fix is a Sharpei. He belongs to the vet and is very proud to help out when his friends come to visit



Maya

Maya is a husky. She is very special as she has one brown eye and one blue eye



Diego

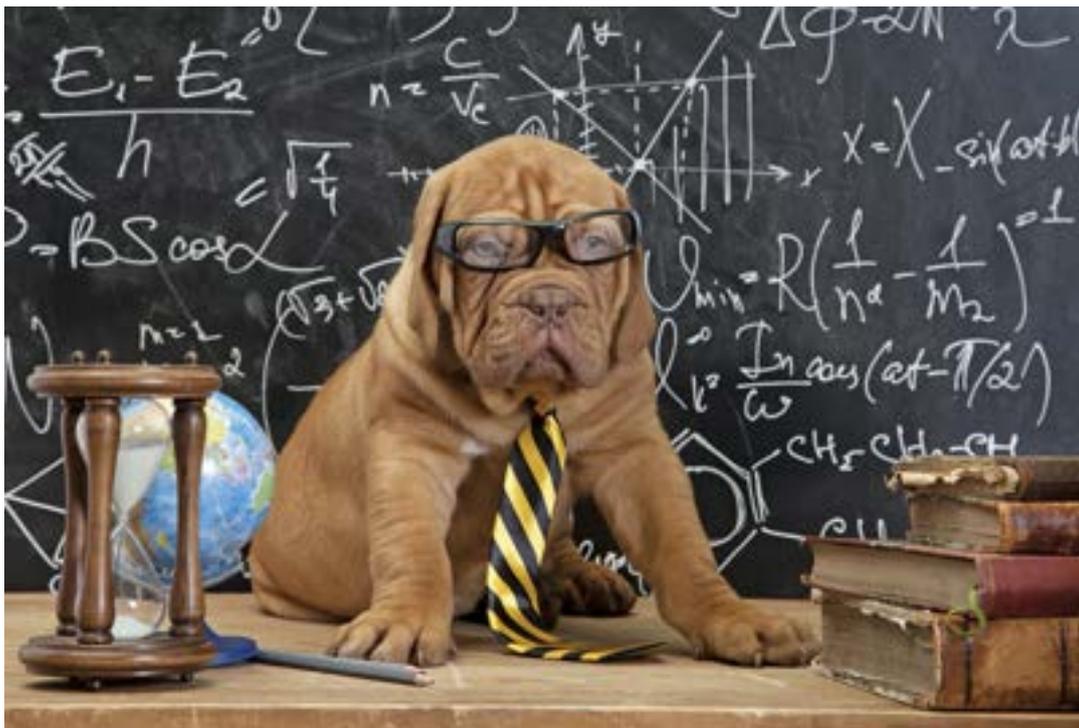
Diego is a chihuahua. He is the smallest of the dogs but has the biggest attitude!



Major

Major is a german shepherd. His job as a police dog is important and he takes it very seriously

Please note - we do NOT force any, child, parent or teacher to approach a dog if they are nervous or scared. This is not fair on either the person or the dog.



Programs

The 3 Golden Rules

- 1** Always ask the owners permission before you approach a dog!



- 2** Where to touch a dog
Red – is NO



Green – is GO



- 3** If a dog runs up to you copy how Beth & Tane are standing



Stop and stay still

Wrap your
branches -
Hold your elbows



Keep Quiet

Stare at your roots -
Look at the floor



Call 0508 DOG SAFE or email kids@dogsafeworkplace.com

Rule Number 1: Always Ask

This is the first rule because it is the most important.

Children (and adults) should ALWAYS ASK before approaching a dog.

You need to get children to understand that not all dogs will want to interact with them. Explain that it is nothing to be upset about as it is nothing they have done, it is just that some dogs are scared of children, or people with hats or sunglasses on, or strangers in general.

When talking about this try to make it more personal to the children so if they are wearing a particular colour then use an example that the dog may be scared of people wearing that colour.

The children also need to understand that the owner may say no. Explain that this is okay, the dog may be sick, in pain, tired or just having a bad day. Possibly the dog may be new to the owner and they don't know if the dog is friendly around children yet, or the owner may be in a rush, there are endless possibilities as to why the answer might be no!

It is essential that we help the children understand that it is ok to get a No.

If the owner says 'yes' then they need to follow Rule 2.



Rule Number 2: Where To Touch A Dog

Children need to know that if a dog's owner says 'Yes' then they should only touch a dog on the back and sides, as shown in green in the below poster.

Get the children thinking how they wouldn't like it if someone put their hands in their face or messed up their hair. Research shows that dogs don't like having strangers anywhere near their head either.

We use to teach that when you touch a dog you touch its chin or chest. But if you think about it logically: if a child is leaning down to touch the dog under the chin their face will be close to the dog's face, so if the dog does react potentially the child will be bitten on the head or face, 80% of dog bites to children are to the head and face.

'You wouldn't stand your child behind a horse so why put it at the pointy end of the dog.' When it is explained to them like that they completely understand why where to touch a dog has been updated.



Rule Number 3: Stand Like A Tree

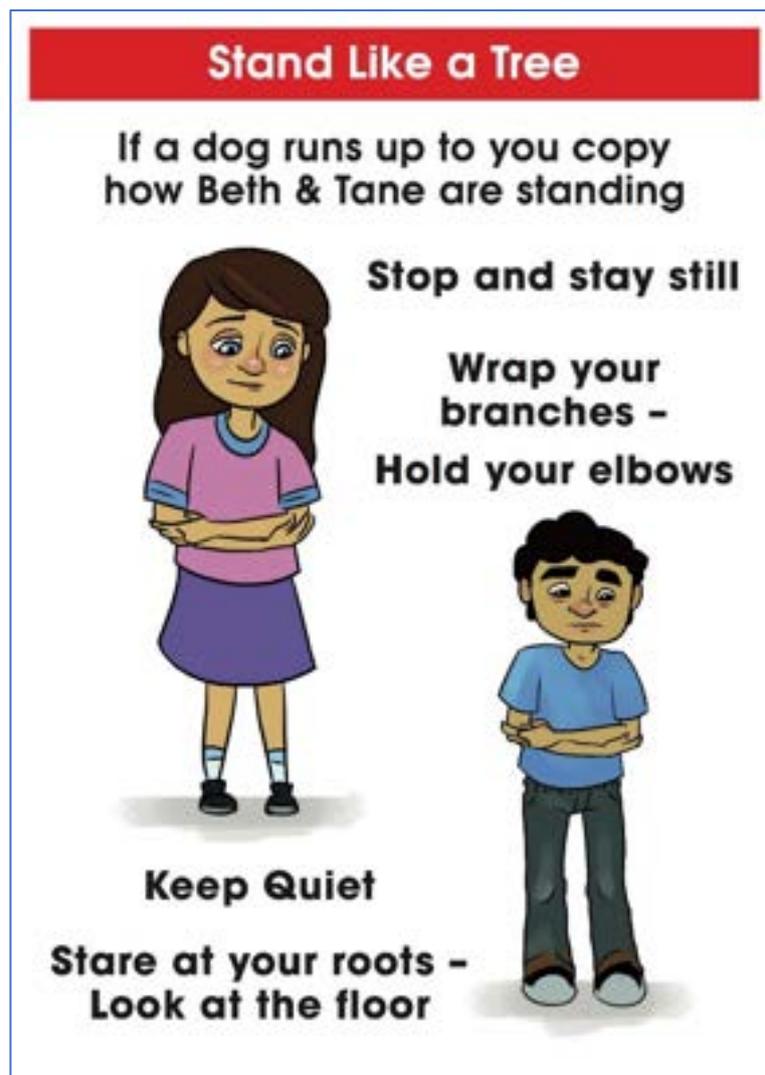
When children get scared of a dog they will often start squealing, waving their arms about and trying to run away. You need to explain to them that this can excite or scare a dog and could potentially cause more problems.

Teach all children that if they get scared they stand like a tree (standing like a tree works for adults too!).

Explain to them that when they stand like a tree they are really still and quiet so they become really boring to the dog and the majority of the time the dog will leave them alone.

Explain how it is important that they are holding their elbows (demonstrate). This ensures that they keep still and can't move their arms around, if they are moving their arms or if their hands are by their sides children tend to wiggle or swing their arms. A dog may then think there is something in their hand, that they are about to throw something or possibly think that their arms are toys.

Getting the children to look at their feet ensures they aren't making eye contact with the dogs as dogs can find this scary.



Scenario Cards

Eating

This scenario is to teach children to leave dogs alone when they are eating.

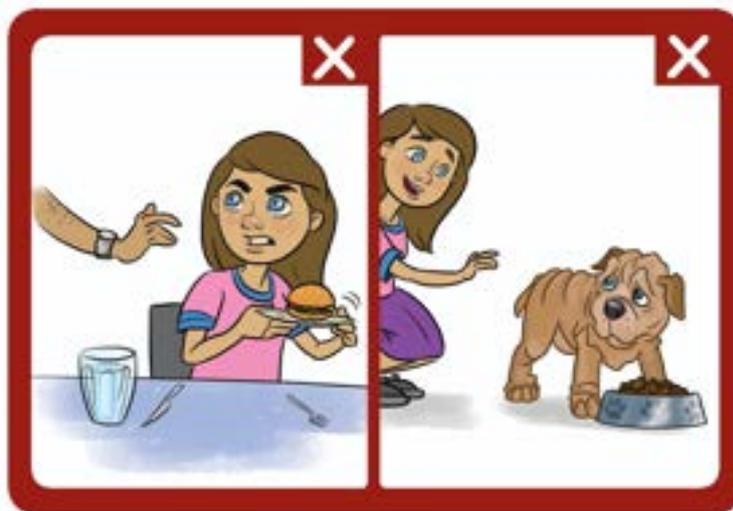
We are trying to teach the children empathy. How would you feel if someone did that to you.

Show the first card - and ask them what their favourite food is.

Then ask them how they would feel if they were eating it and a sibling or friends tried to take it off them. What would they do, call mum, yell, scream, hit....

Show the second card - and ask how they think the dog would feel if someone tries to take their food off them. Remind them that dogs can't talk so they may growl which is their way of saying stop if I don't like that. What might happen if they continue to interfere with the dog while its eating.

Show the third card - and let them see what they should do which is stay away.



In The Car

This scenario is to teach children how scary they can be to dogs left in cars.

Show the first card – imagine that you're waiting in the car as Mum or Dad pop into the dairy to get some milk. When a strange person comes and knocks on the window, how would you feel?

Show the second card - How do you think a dog would feel if it was waiting r in a car and YOU came near the car or knocked on the window? What do you think the dog would do?

Show third card - So if there is a dog in the car you need to make sure you stay away from it. Don't try to touch the dog or the car, just look from a distance.

(Sometimes you will have children that mention that you should never leave a dog in a hot car, which is fantastic! Simply agree with them and say that is very true , unfortunately some people don't know that rule though).



Touching

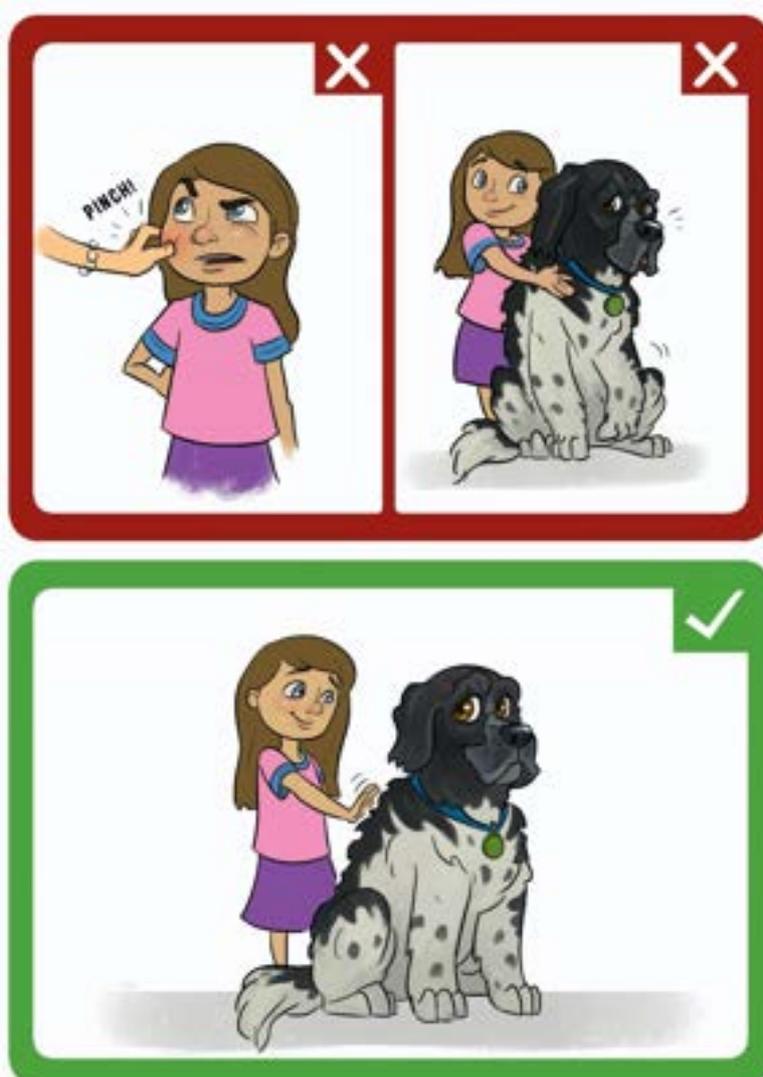
This scenario is to remind the children where to touch a dog as well as letting them know they need to be gentle with dogs and not pull their fur or tail.

Show first card - What if I came over and pinched your cheek or pulled your hair or trod on your foot. Would you like it, how would it make you feel?

Show second card – How do you think a dog would feel if you pulled their tail or fur, or hurt them?

Let the children know that dogs and all animals are just like us. You have to be gentle with them and be careful not to accidentally stand on them or hurt them. Explain that dogs don't really like hugs either? They find it smothering and uncomfortable because they're stuck and can't get away! Some children will say their dogs like hugs, remind them that the dog might like hugs from them because they know them. But they are just like you and you wouldn't like a stranger hugging you, dogs don't like it so NEVER hug a strange dog.

Show third card - So who remembers where we should touch a dog?



Staring

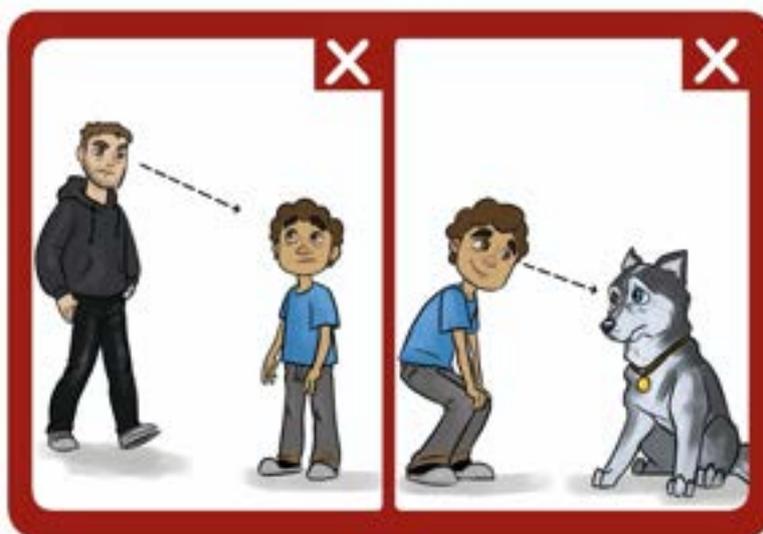
This scenario teaches children that dogs find it intimidating and rude when people stare them in the eyes.

Show first card – How do you feel when I stare you in the eyes, (stare into one of the children's eyes, flaring your eyes will increase the intensity) How does that make you feel?

Let them know that it is rude to stare at each other, It makes us feel uncomfortable and we want to tell the other person to stop.

Show second card - Dogs don't like it either. What do you think you should do instead?

Show third card - It is fine to look at the dog but you have to be careful not to stare them in the eyes. This can be hard as sometimes dogs have very pretty coloured eyes, or like Maya the Husky, they can have one blue eye and one brown eye which make it very tempting to stare.



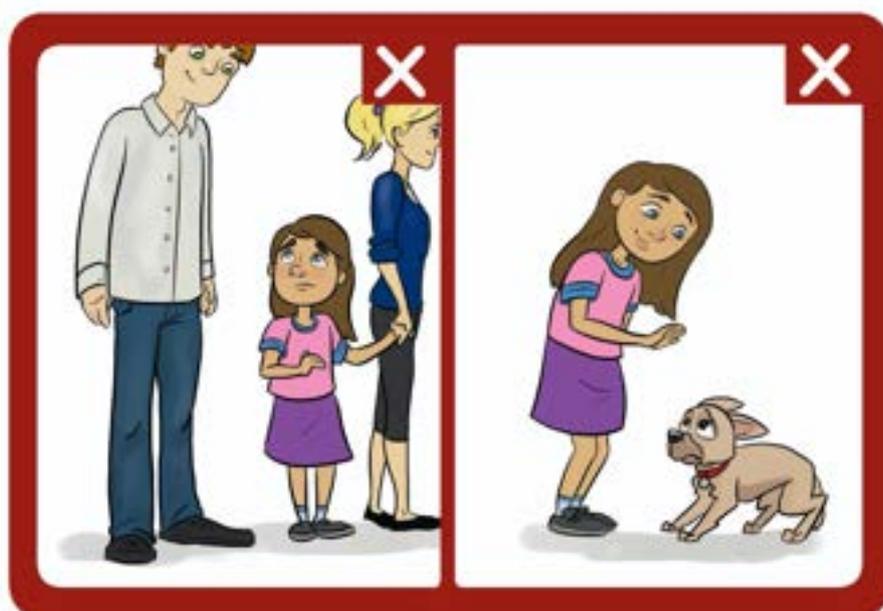
Leaning Over

This scenario shows children how scary they can be to dogs (especially small dogs) when they lean over them.

Show first card - How would do you feel if a stranger came and stood over you? How would it make you feel?

Show second card - How do you think dogs feel when you tower over them? What do you think they may do?

Show the third card - Crouching down makes you much less scary and the dog is more likely to want to come to you. But only do this if you have asked permission from the owner. If the dog is alone do not approach it.



Tied Up

This scenario teaches children how scary it can be for a dog when they are tied up and a stranger approaches. They cannot get away.

Show first card - Imagine that you're trying to play with your friends but your Nan is round or maybe your aunty, and they just want to give you a big squeeze and a hug. You've said you want to play but they keep following you and pestering you, you can't get away from them. How would you feel? What if it was a stranger that kept pestering you and following you? How would you feel then?

Show second card - so how do you think a dog feels when you follow it around, even though it is trying to get away from you? Imagine how the dog feels when it is tied and it can't get away from you! The dog can't shout at you to leave it alone, what could it do?

Show third card - SO if a dog is tied up anywhere you always leave it alone! If there is no one to ask if you can touch the dog remember it may be scared because it can't get away.



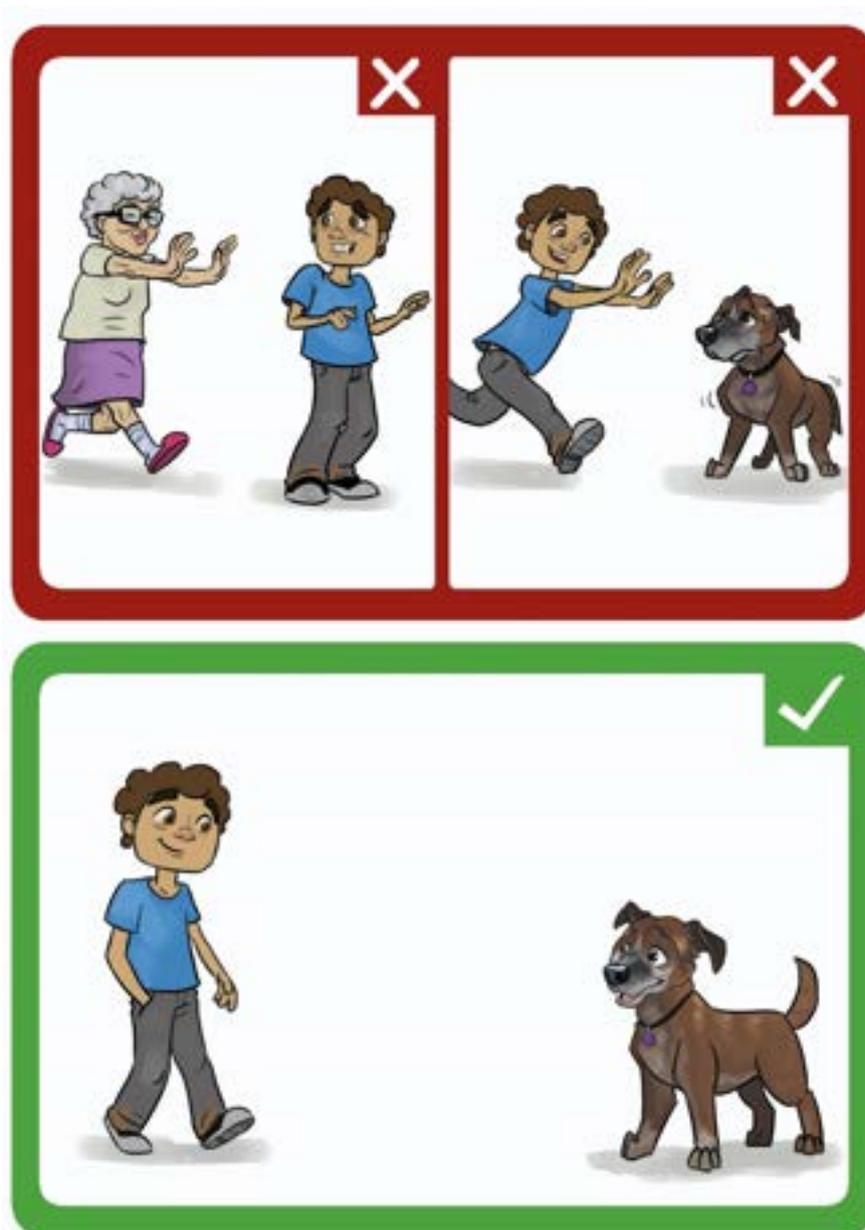
Running

This scenario teaches children how to approach a dog in a way that won't scare the dog.

Show first card - Your Nan has just arrived with her friends and they all come running towards you trying to give you a big kiss. Imagine if a stranger came running up to you to give you a big hug. Would you like it?

Show second card - Well dogs don't like it when you run up to them either. It can be really hard not to run up when there is a really cute puppy but you have to remember how much you wouldn't like it and think how much the puppy won't like it either! What do you think you could do instead?

Show third card - if you act calmly and nicely around a dog or puppy it is going to be a lot happier and much more likely to want to say hello.



The Whole Family

These are two factors that are very important to us at The Dog Safe Workplace.

The Whole Family and having programs that are for all ages.

It is important that the whole family are educated for us to have the best chance of reducing dog bites to children in New Zealand. If we are teaching the children something we need to ensure that they are receiving the same message at home. That is why the printed materials are so important. Children love teaching their family and being able to share the information with them helps the children retain all the information we have given them.

We hope you enjoy our programs and if you need any further information please contact Jo Clough

jo@dogsafeworkplace.com



3 Golden Rules

Always ask the owners
permission before you
approach a dog!



1. Always Ask

Red – is **NO**



Green – is **GO**



2. Where To Touch

Stop and stay still

Wrap your
branches -
Hold your elbows

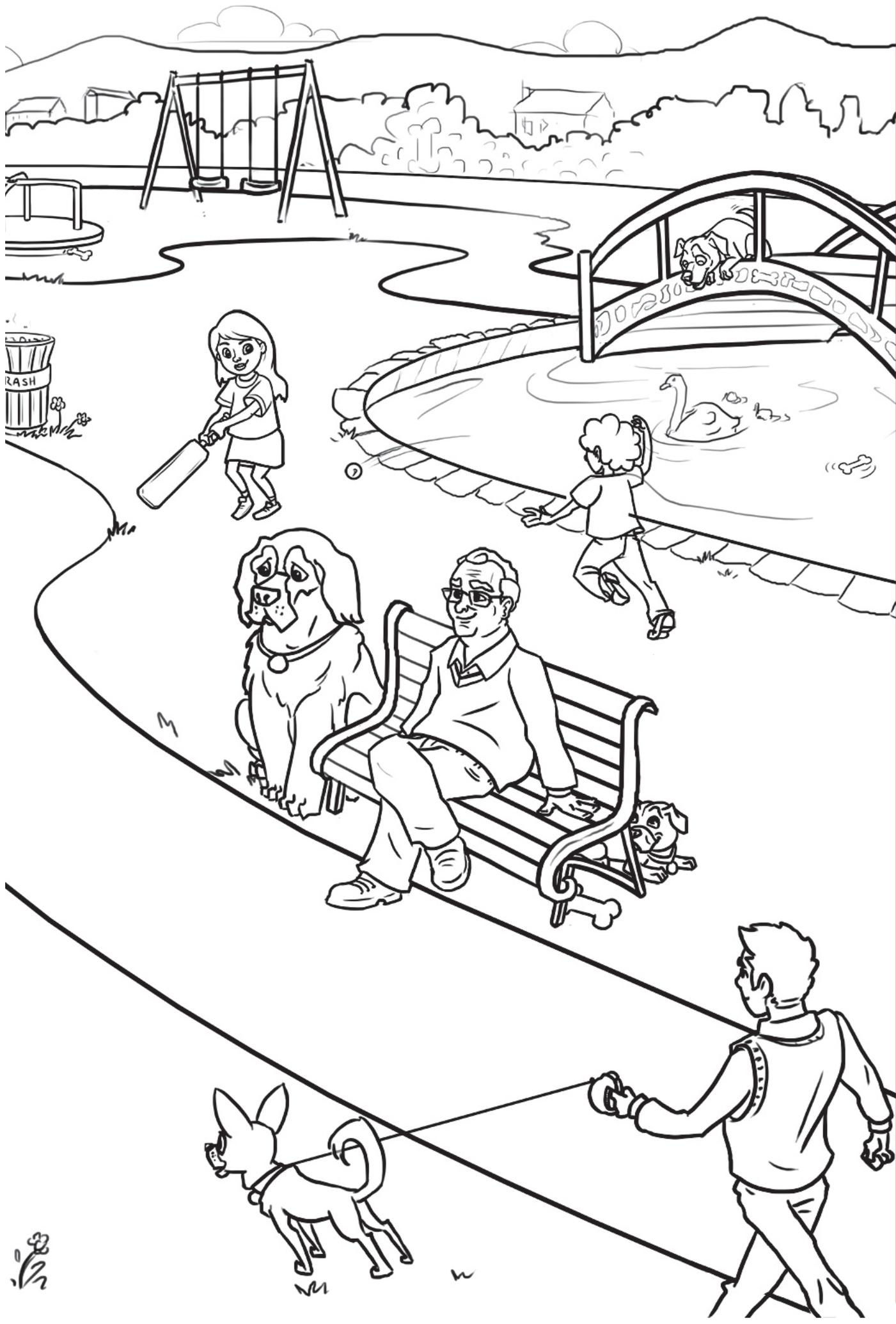


Keep Quiet

Stare at your roots -
Look at the floor

3. Stand Like A Tree





In the Tree. 6 dogs. 10 bones.



- Where is the cat?
- How many dogs can you find?
- How many bones are there?

Characters



Maya



Keira



Norman



Dr Fix



Jelly



Diego



Duchess



Sirius



Major


**The Dog Safe
Workplace Ltd**

dogsafeworkplace.com • kids@dogsafeworkplace.com

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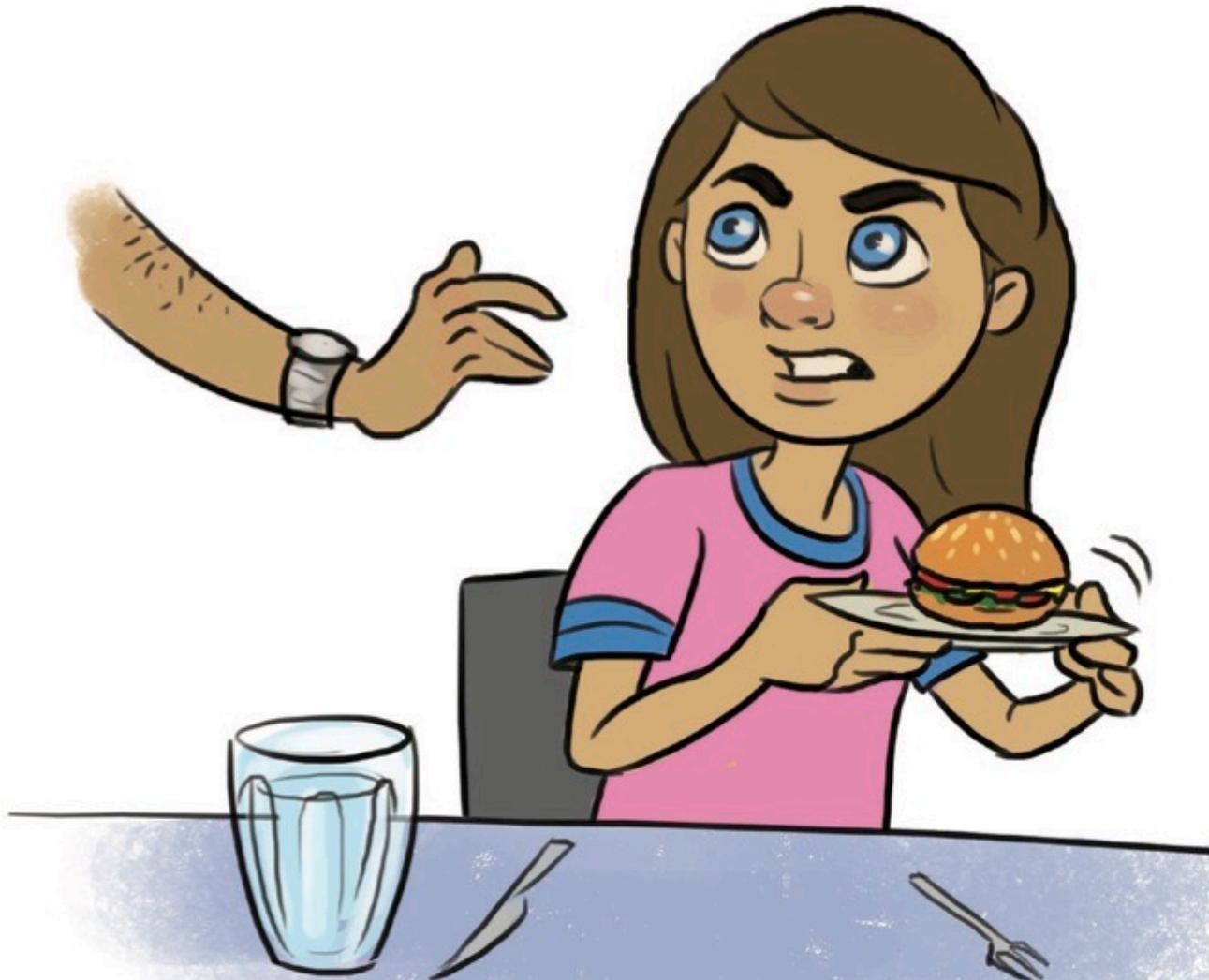
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Workplace Ltd**



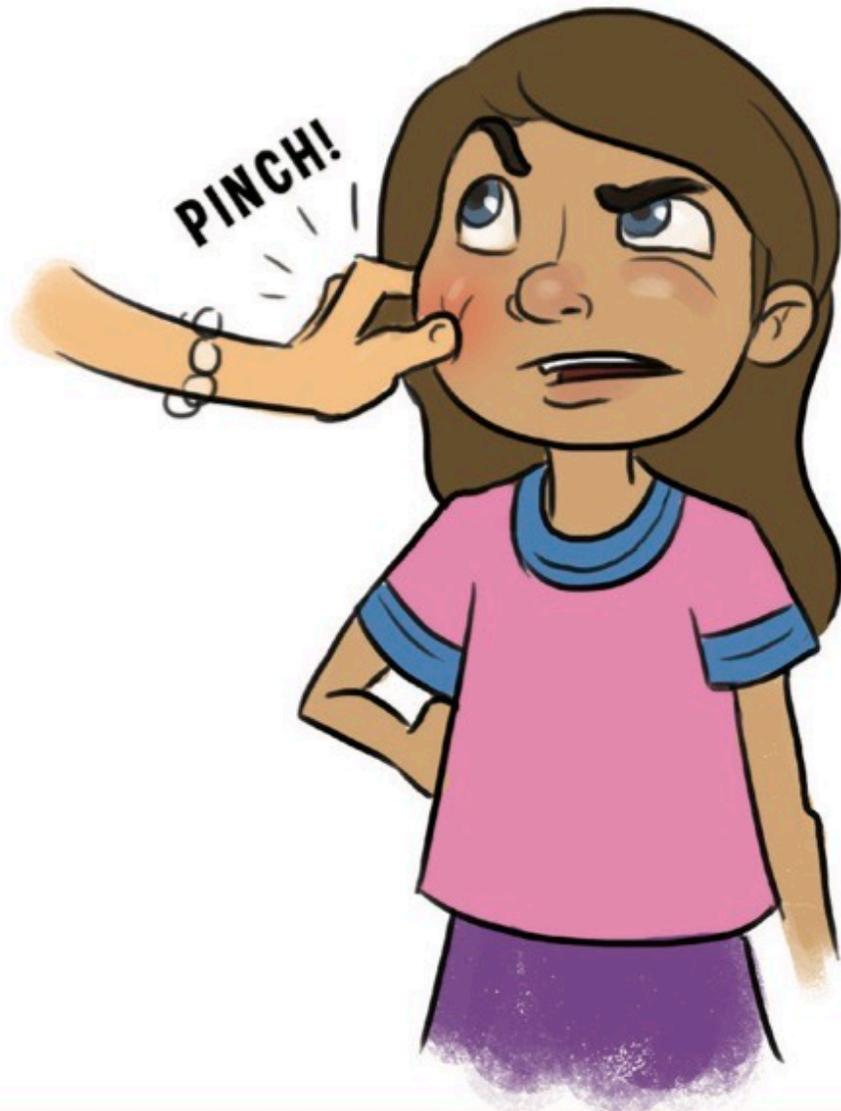






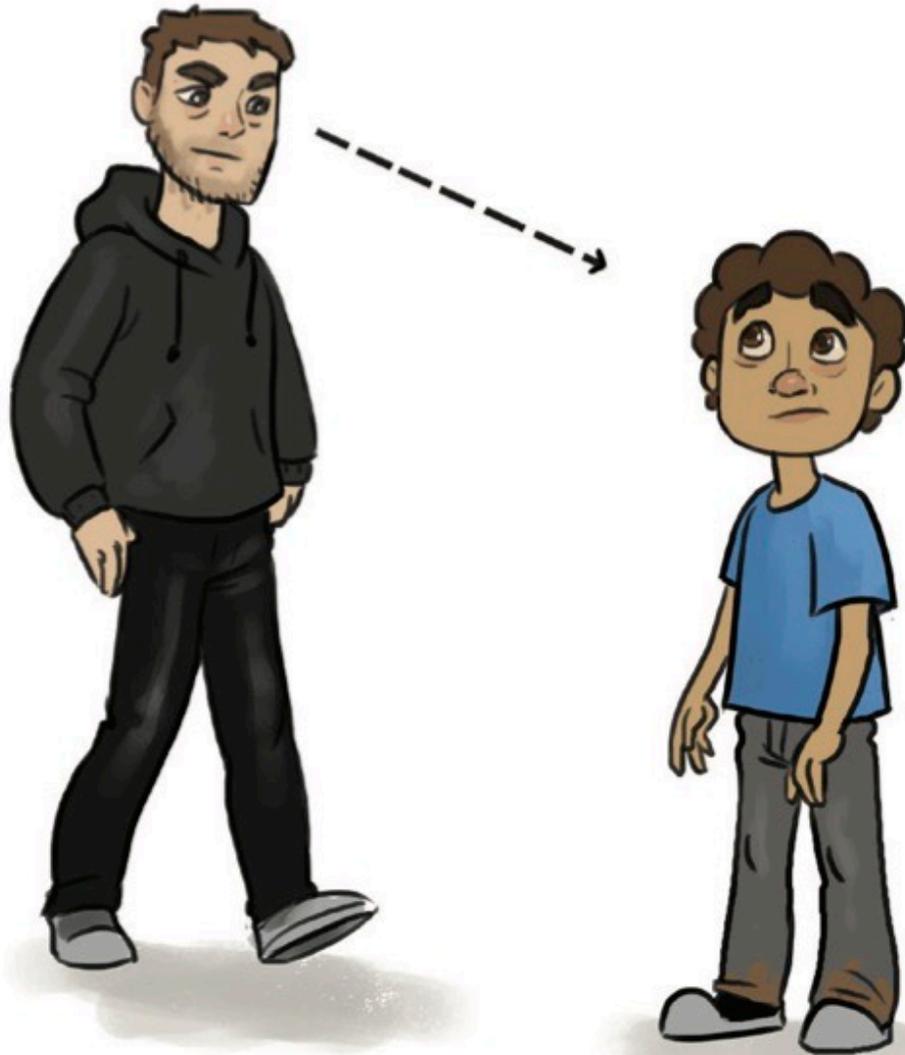


































Sing Jelly's Song to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little
Star

Let us sing our ABC
Teaching us on Dog Safety

A is Ask if you can pat

B is 'always on the Back'

C is make a Cherry Tree

Hold your elbows, feet you see

Now we know our

ABC

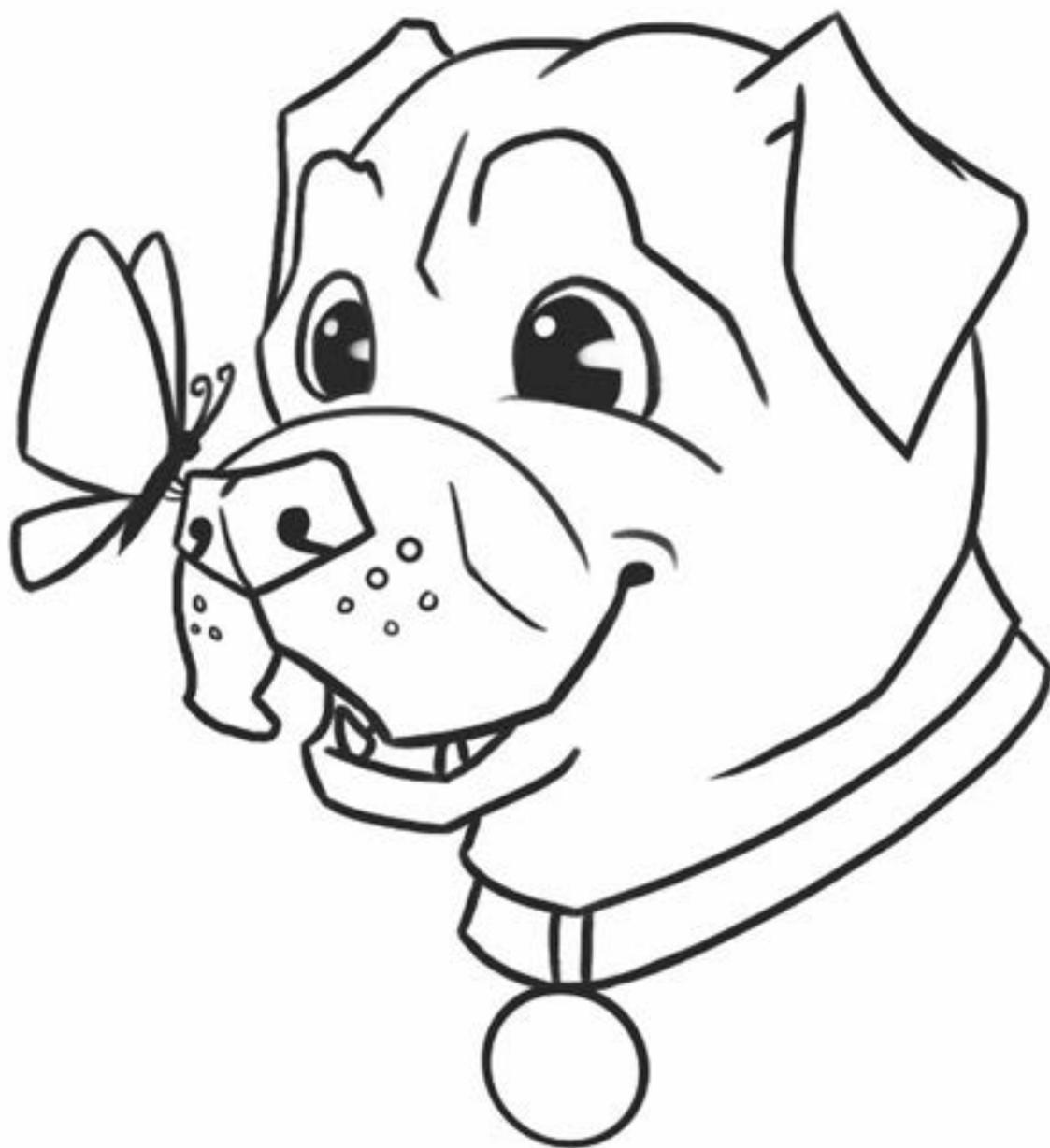
We remember Dog

Safety












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Jigsaw

Instructions:

1. Print out the design below.
2. Stick on to a piece of cardboard.
3. When the glue dries cut along the lines.
4. Mix the pieces up and have fun putting it all back together.









