

# Dogs and Kids

## Dog bite prevention

### Safety Centre

To reduce the risk of dog bites to children the following steps should be taken:

- **SUPERVISE.** Children always need constant, close supervision when near dogs, especially during play when children must be gentle with dogs
- **Teach children** to leave a dog alone when it is sleeping or eating. Children must leave a dog alone when it lifts its lips, growls, backs away, raises the hair on its back or stares at you
- Teach children not to approach an unfamiliar dog. If a child is approached by an unfamiliar dog, teach the child to stand completely still, arms by their sides, hands in a fist and not to scream or make eye contact with the dog
- **Train your dog** to obey commands such as sit, stay, drop and come

For further information on dog bite prevention and responsible dog ownership go to The Royal Children's Hospital Safety Centre website [www.rch.org.au/safetycentre](http://www.rch.org.au/safetycentre)

**ANY DOG CAN AND MIGHT BITE A CHILD**



Supported by Mars Petcare Australia.

The Royal Children's Hospital Safety Centre TELEPHONE +61 3 9345 5085 [www.rch.org.au/safetycentre](http://www.rch.org.au/safetycentre)