

Personal Safety

Month: Mar.

Week #: 27

Day: e. Fri. Time: 30 min.

Dog Bite Prevention

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: learn the appropriate way to approach dogs; learn how to prevent a dog attack and how to defend oneself if an attack occurs.

Materials

a rope to tie around the waist of the 'dog' actor with the end of the rope acting as a tail

Illustration

What is Number 7 trying to prevent his friend, Lisa, from doing? It looks like she needs to learn a few things about dogs.

Background

“Man and woman's best friend bites more than 4.7 million people a year, and key experts believe that public education can help prevent these bites. The third full week of May is National Dog Bite Prevention Week, and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the United States Postal Service, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are each working to educate Americans about dog bite prevention.



Each year, 800,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children. Of those injured, 386,000 require treatment in an emergency department and about a dozen die. The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest for children ages 5 to 9 years, and the rate decreases as children age. Almost two thirds of injuries among children ages four years and younger are to the head or neck region. Injury rates in children are significantly higher for boys than for girls. (See [CDC MMWR article](#).)

CDC is committed to reducing this public health problem by working with state health departments to establish dog bite prevention programs and by tracking and reporting trends on U.S. dog bite injuries. Dog bites are a largely preventable public health problem, and adults and children can learn to reduce their chances of being bitten.”

The source for the Background information can be found at: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Dog Bite Prevention Week. Accessed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/biteprevention.htm> (Last visited 4/08/07)

Group Activity

1. Say, “Raise you hand if you have a pet dog, have played with a dog before or have ever been around dogs... Yes, many of you, if not all of you have been around dogs before. Dogs are very common in our culture. Many people consider dogs to be ‘Man’s best friend’ and yet if they are not

Group Activity (continued)

approached and treated respectfully, they can bite and hurt us. Today we're going to learn some important rules on how to be safe with dogs."

2. Say, "To learn how to be safe, we're going to put on some one act plays. I need a person to pretend that he or she is a dog and another person to interact with the dog." Select several dramatic students. "The actors will be 'people puppets' and I will give them both the words to say and the actions to do. After each play, I'm going to ask the class if the person acted appropriately with the dog."

3. Act out the following safety rules. Have the actor playing the person either follow the rule or break it. Freeze the actors at the point of decision or conflict and ask the rest of the class, by a show of hands, if they think the person is making a good choice or not. Ask several students to explain why it is a good or bad decision. To confirm the results of the discussion, unfreeze the actors and continue with either the negative or positive results. New actors can be selected after two or three of the one act plays.

Safety Rules for One Act Plays:

- 1) Never run up to a dog.
- 2) Never attempt to touch a neighbor's dog through a fence.
- 3) Never touch a dog that is growling, showing his teeth, or barking hysterically.
- 4) Young children must never approach dogs without a grown-up's supervision.
- 5) Always hold your hand out first below the the dog's muzzle and allow the dog to sniff your hand.
- 6) Never grab at a dog.
- 7) Don't approach a dog that is a watch dog protecting his property.
- 8) Never attempt to touch a dog that is eating or in possession of a bone or a treat of some sort (or nursing / caring for puppies).
- 9) Never hurt the animal by pulling its tail, ears or fur.
- 10) If the dog is leashed, ask the dog's owner's permission to pet the dog first.
- 11) Keep your face away from the dogs, when approaching or playing with it.
- 12) Don't make loud noises or sudden moves when approaching a dog. Speak softly to it.
- 13) If a dog is chasing you, stop running, because running encourages him to chase you.
- 14) Avoid eye contact with an aggressive dog, and back off slowly and non-threateningly.
- 15) Do not touch, or attempt to touch, the animal's eyes.

The source for the dog safety rules can be found at: Kids and Dogs Safety Tip Sheet. Accessed at: <http://www.barkbytes.com/b4ubuy/kiddog.htm> (Last visited 4/08/07) Some additions have been made by the author.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to remember and follow these safety rules?
A: So you don't get bitten or injured.

Variations/Extensions

1. Play the S.A.S. Safety Factor Challenge at http://www2.the-kennel-club.org.uk/safe_and_sound.html

Conclusion

Say, "Over 400,000 children are bitten and injured by dogs each year. This doesn't mean that you need to fear dogs, but you do need to act smart around them. To many people, dogs are their 'best friend,' so we need to treat them like a good friend, but in a way that the dog understands and accepts."



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It looks like she needs to learn a few things about dogs!**