

MAKING FRIENDS WITH BUDDY

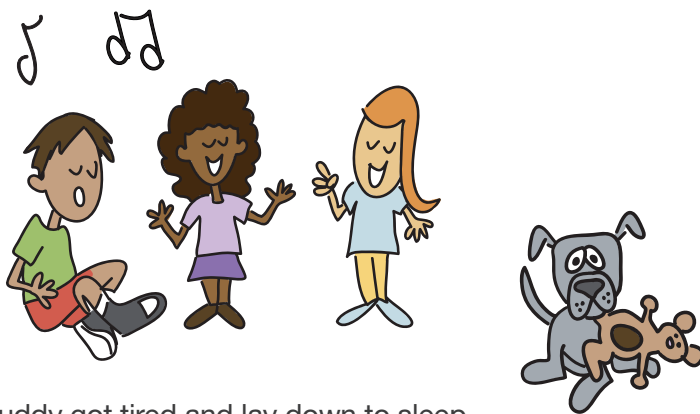
Kayla and Liam went to see a new friend.
They knocked on the door and were invited in.
They heard a loud “woof” as a dog scampered out,
So, they stood really still as the dog sniffed about.

“My dog’s name is Buddy,” Taylor told them politely.
“May we pet your dog? We’ll touch him ever so lightly.”
“Let him sniff your hand and pet him from the side.
You don’t want to startle him or look him straight in the eye.”



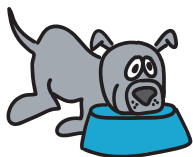
They all went upstairs to talk and to play.
They played video games for half of the day.
When lo and behold, the dog came back around!
He grabbed a loose toy from off of the ground.

“He’s chewing your toy!” Kayla said with a start.
“I’ll grab it for you before he tears it apart!”
But Taylor knew better and said very clear,
“That wouldn’t be safe, so just leave it there.”



Buddy got tired and lay down to sleep.
They all walked by quietly, not making a peep.
You never know what might happen when you startle a dog.
He could nip out of fear or jump like a frog.

“I’ve never had a dog,” Liam said with a frown.
“I’m not sure how they play. Does he fetch or run around?”
“Well, he likes to chase balls, but tug of war is a no.
Dogs may accidentally bite if playing gets out of control.”



When they were through playing and ready to go,
They saw Buddy eating from his purple dog bowl.
Kayla said, “Don’t tell me, I think I know this,
Never bother a dog who’s eating because that food is his!”


Taylor thanked her new friends for helping with her pup.
She said, “He’s such a great dog when you know all this stuff!”
If you follow certain rules and are always aware,
You’ll get along with most dogs almost anywhere.




**A dog has boundaries we must respect and know.
With good training and communication,
a great relationship can grow.**


Dear parents, guardians and teachers

A dog can be a wonderful addition to a family if everyone follows a few simple rules. The story on the back and the worksheet below are designed to help kids learn to interact safely with dogs. Please read the story with your children and then have them answer the questions on the worksheet. We encourage you to have ongoing discussions with your children and their friends about being safe and respectful around all dogs. Most dog bites happen to children with dogs they know. We hope that these easy guidelines will help keep kids and dogs safe and will promote healthy lifelong relationships for all.

1. When Kayla and Liam walked into Taylor's house and saw  approaching, what did they do first?

2. What did Kayla and Liam do before they petted  ?

3. Did Kayla and Liam pet  from the front or the side?

4. When Kayla wanted to grab the toy from  what did Taylor say?

5. Why shouldn't the kids bother  while he was eating?

6. What game does  like to play?

7. Why shouldn't the kids ever play tug of war with  ?

8. When  was sleeping, the kids were all very quiet. Why?

9. If a sleeping  is startled or scared, what might he do?

10. How does good training and communication help both kids and dogs?

**Speak softly, pet gently. Don't tease or leer.
Respect the boundaries of dogs, or they could bite out of fear.**