

Gabriel's Angels



Follow Your Dogs Lead! by Laura Hodge & Rosie

Pets Helping Kids®

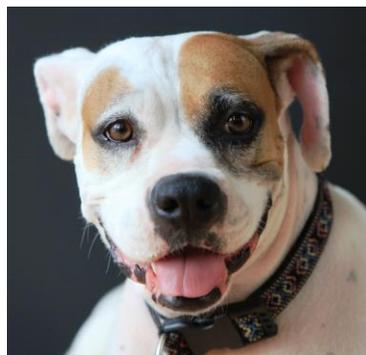
Rosie and I visit with 3-4 year old children. Since the children have many scheduled activities during the day I want our visits to be a break for them. I put Rosie's portable bed (it's a great little pillow that zips closed with handles for carrying) in the middle of their carpeted area. After the initial "Rosie's here!" greetings are over we all settle down in a circle with Rosie in the middle. I ask them if we can go around the circle and say "Hello" one at a time. They sit and eagerly await their turn for a little one-on-one time with Rosie. While that is going on, I talk with the children about various topics: reminders of how to greet a dog you don't know; where and how to pet a dog; basic dog body language; and how to be gentle.

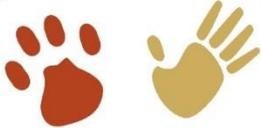
I like to repeat these topics on visits with this age group...repetition creates mastery. After these greetings are over Rosie almost always wants to lie down on her pillow. That gives us the chance to talk about how good it feels to relax and why dogs like to rest. You can suggest that the children lie down on the floor, like little spokes in a wheel with Rosie as the hub. While resting I ask the children questions about their own experiences with dogs or their pets. Most of them enjoy talking about their pets (many of them are missing their pet because they have been separated).

Usually at this point Rosie will stand up and do a "downward dog" stretch. That is our cue for all to stand up and have a good stretch. We talk about how that feels and why dogs do it. Sometimes Rosie lies back down again, and I invite them to get closer because she likes to be petted by many little hands. If she stretches out and exposed her belly then they all get to rub her belly.

If we have time, the children brush Rosie then each one gives her a treat. They know that this signals the close of the visit.

I invite you occasionally letting your dog initiate what you do on your visits. Thank you, Rosie!





1. What was the best part of your day? What was the worst?
2. What is your favorite game to play?
3. If you could be any type of sandwich what would you be and why?
4. What is your favorite thing to do outside?
5. If you could be anywhere right now where would you be? What would you be doing?
6. What is your favorite animal? Why?
7. What is the silliest face that you can make?
8. What is your favorite song? Why do you like it?
9. What was the best dream you ever had?
10. Where do you like to go in the car?
11. If we were at the grocery store, what would you like to buy?
12. How many animal noises can you make?
13. If you could have any "super-hero" power, what would you have?
14. How high can you count?
15. If you could make three wishes, what would they be?
16. Who do you love? Why?
17. What is your favorite smell? What is the yuckiest thing you've ever smelled?
18. What is your favorite weather? Why do you like that weather?
19. When did you last say, "ut-oh"? What happened?
20. What is the messiest part of the house?
21. When was the last time you were silly? What did you do?
22. If you could be any animal which one would you be?
23. What do you want to be when you grow up?
24. What would you do with a million dollars?
25. What do you like most about Easter?
26. What is something that you don't like?
27. What is your favorite movie or TV show?
28. If you could only keep one toy which one would you keep?
29. If you could only keep one book which one would you keep?
30. What is your favorite time of day? Why?
31. What is the best gift that you ever received? What made it special?
32. What do you like the most about Christmas?
33. What is your favorite outfit? What do you like about it?
34. What is your favorite story?
35. Have you ever lost something you really liked? What did you do?
36. What is the coolest thing you have ever seen?
37. How many hugs do you need every day?
38. If money were no object, what would you want to buy?

39. What sound annoys you the most?
40. What is the longest walk you have ever taken?
41. What do you like the most about Halloween?
42. Name someone that you trust. Why?
43. What is your favorite color?
44. What is your favorite ice cream?
45. What would you like to learn to do?
46. What should we do more of as a family?
47. What color is the happiest color? What makes it happy?
48. What do you enjoy doing with your family?
49. What was the best party you ever went to? What made it fun?
50. What is one thing that you forget to do regularly?
51. What would you do if you had no TV?
52. When you are afraid what do you do?
53. What is your favorite food?
54. If you could re-name yourself, what would you like to be called? Why?
55. What is your favorite color?
56. Tell us a memory of something you did with us?
57. What is the first thing that you remember about Daddy (or a sibling)?
58. What would you like me to play with you?
59. How can we tell that you are happy? What do you do?
60. What is one thing that you do not want to sell, for any price?
61. What is the best surprise you ever had?
62. What was your favorite thing of the summer?
63. What was your favorite thing of the winter?
64. What do you do when people stare at you?
65. Do you pretend to be someone? Who? Why?
66. Describe something silly that happened to someone else.
67. What is the best thing that ever happened to you?
68. What is your favorite candy?
69. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you?
70. Tell us of a time that you were silly.
71. What is the prettiest thing you have ever seen?
72. If you joined the circus, who would you like to be? What act would you do?
73. What would you like to collect?
74. What are you thinking about right now?
75. Who is the funniest person you know?
76. What makes something or someone silly?
77. What is your favorite room in the house? Why?
78. What is the best gift you have ever given someone? What made it special?
79. What is your favorite place in the house?
80. What do you like the most about Thanksgiving?
81. If you could be any vegetable, what would you be?
82. What was the nicest thing someone has ever done for you?
83. What is your favorite restaurant? What is your favorite thing to order?
84. What do you do if you see someone treated unfairly?

85. What is something special you want to do for a friend?
86. What makes you smile?
87. What is your favorite thing to do with your Mom (or a sibling)?
88. What is the nicest thing someone has done for you?
89. If you could have any animal for a pet which one would you choose?
90. How would you describe yourself to someone who hasn't met you?
91. What is your favorite chore to do in the house? Which is your least favorite chore?
92. If you could go on a trip somewhere, where would you go?
93. What superhero would you want to be and why?
94. If you could play any instrument, which would you choose and why?
95. What was the most disgusting thing you have ever eaten?
96. What is the most beautiful man-made object?
97. What is the best thing that happened to you last year?
98. What is your favorite snack?
99. Who is the richest person in the world? How do you know they are rich?