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Dogs & Children: Safety Comes First

FOSTERS & ADOPTERS

The adult's responsibility

A responsible adult must actively supervise dog-child interactions, close enough to intervene. If attention is divided, separate the dog and children with a secure barrier. Never rely on a child to interpret warning signs.

Teach children

Let the dog approach voluntarily. Pet gently on the shoulder or side if the dog solicits contact. Stop after a few seconds to see whether the dog wants more. Speak quietly and allow the dog to walk away.

Never allow

Hugging, kissing faces, climbing, pulling ears or tails, chasing, cornering, waking a sleeping dog, reaching into crates, taking food or toys, or approaching while eating or chewing.

Respect the retreat

A crate, room, bed, or pen designated as the dog's safe space is off limits to children. Do not allow children to follow a dog who walks away.

Notice discomfort

Turning away, lip licking, yawning outside sleep, whale eye, freezing, stiff posture, growling, or trying to hide can indicate stress. Calmly separate; do not punish signals.

If concerns arise

Stop the interaction and contact GNR or a qualified behavior professional. After any bite, secure the dog, obtain appropriate medical care, and follow reporting requirements.