



# Safety in Schools Week

## June 13th to 17th 2005

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**Activity Title** **Dog Bite Injury Prevention**

### Curriculum Framework Activity Outcomes

Learning Area	Learning Outcome	Specific Learning
Health and Physical Activity	Knowledge and Understandings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students identify that some situations can be unsafe around dogs</li> </ul>
	Self Management Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students can identify options to increase their safety when around dogs</li> <li>Students can identify basic reasons why they would choose specific options to increase their safety around dogs</li> </ul>
	Interpersonal Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students can communicate their feelings regarding dogs</li> </ul>

**Phases of Development** Middle Childhood (Years 3 and 4) but can be adapted for other years

- Activity Resources Required**
- Picture of dogs (students to bring from home)
  - Butchers paper
  - Blue tack/ glue
  - Poster paper
  - Texta's, crayons, pencils etc

## Procedure

### Brainstorm

- Ask the class to raise their hand if they have a dog, or knows someone who has a dog as a pet.
- Ask the class to discuss the benefits of owning a dog. Get the class to share some good stories they have about dogs.
- Stick pictures of dogs on a piece of butchers paper to make a collage. (This helps to reduce the risk of creating a fear of dogs with the students)
- Ask the class whether they have ever felt unsafe around a dog before. Ask them why they felt unsafe.
- Ask the class to come up with suggestions about how what they can do to be safer around dogs.
- Discuss situations where it is unsafe/ safe to approach a dog and what is safe behaviour around dogs. Write the answers on the board.
- If the following suggestions are not raised, suggest them to the class
  - a. Never approach a strange dog without permission from its owner.
  - b. Don't approach a dog when they are eating or sleeping.
  - c. Don't pat a dog on the head – it can scare them.
  - d. If you are allowed to pat a dog, put your hand out in a fist and let the dog come to you. Then pat them gently.
  - e. Never go into a yard or a house with a strange dog in it without an adult.
  - f. If a strange dog approaches you, stand still "like a tree". Be very quiet and wait for the dog to get bored and leave.

### Activity

- Give the class examples of unsafe situations involving dogs. Ask the class to say what they would do in each situation to stay safe.
- Facilitate discussion and clarify answers if needed.
- Get the class to create individual posters of people staying safe with dogs and include safety message.

## Community Links

### How could the school involve the local community in Safety in Schools Week?

- Display the student's posters at the local library, Shopping Centre or Local Council offices.
- Invite a guest speaker such as a local Ranger, Vet or Animal Behaviourist to talk to the class about dog bite injury prevention.

### How could the school involve parents and seniors in Safety in School Week?

- Students could discuss the activity and staying safe with dogs with their parent and siblings and share their discussions with the class the next day.
- Parents can be referred to the dog bite injury prevention resources listed below for further information about dog safety in the home.

## Policy and Procedures

### Are you aware of the schools written Health and Safety Policy? If not: -

- Check with administration
- Refer to the Education Department's Risk Management Policy

## Other Resources Available

- Fact Sheet: The Injury Issue of Dog Attacks and Bites, Injury Control Council of WA (08) 94207212 – [www.iccwa.org.au](http://www.iccwa.org.au)
- Dog Attacks, Kidsafe WA Fact Sheet – [www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au)
- Background information for teachers from the Petcare Information and Advisory Service and the Safety Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital – [http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/safetycentre/Kids\\_and\\_dogsBooklet.pdf](http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/safetycentre/Kids_and_dogsBooklet.pdf)