Appropriate child and dog interactions are not only beautiful but so important in helping to reduce the number of dog bites that occur each year.

7 Prevention Tips for Parents:

1. Understand dog body language.
2. Understand when a dog is asking for space.
3. Teach your children dog body language.
4. Teach your children to give dogs space.
5. Always supervise your children with dogs.
6. Teach your children appropriate games to play with dogs like fetch and find it.
7. Teach your children to pet a dog ONLY when a dog approaches, and on their chin, side, or belly (if the dog offers), or a scratch on the butt.

BONUS TIP: Avoid petting a dog on top of their head. This can be threatening for a dog.

NOTE: Understanding dog body language is the first step, but you must always take into account the dog’s learning history and the context to which any behavior is happening (the environment, circumstances, and all individuals involved).

Dogs are sentient creatures who do not speak our language. It is our responsibility to speak theirs.