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While most dogs love to fetch sticks and hide and search, Lassie was different. Anyone who’s seen the hit 1950s TV show knows that picking up people was Lassie’s favorite sport, especially when she dragged Timmy or Paul, Timmy’s father, back to the scene of a catwalk. In season 5, episode 21, Uncle Petrie - who shouldn’t be confused with a Nobel Laureate - sees dollar signs when Timmy finds a pool of oil on their land. Lassie, says the geezer sneakily late at night, shows me where the oil is. I have to see it with my own eyes. Lassie, who is a duty-duties collie, takes the dilted uncle to the pond oil. Tasting the oil is not enough to convince Uncle Petrie that the liquid is indeed black gold. For some unfathomable reason, he wades into the muck and starts sinking. I’m stuck, he tells the dog. Lassie, you have to go help. It ought to teach me. Yes, it should, think Lassie. Instead of leaving Uncle Petrie to stow in his own crude oil, Lassie obstructs to go graze Paul, her tail, her eyes as bright as a black and white television. It appears the oil came from a busted pipe. Doesn’t matter. For Lassie, saving the day was tons of fun. Luckily, making sure your dog has fun doesn’t have to be dramatic or dangerous, especially if you have kids. Dogs and children love to play with each other. After all, even Timmy liked Lassie tossed a stick every now and then. There are many safe and fun games kids can play with their four-legged friends. Just remember these safety tips from the American Kennel Club when your kids play with Fido, or a 21st-century Lassie: Kids should treat all dogs respectfully and respect the dog’s space. Dogs love toys and can’t like it if you’re trying to take one away. If a dog will not drop a toy on command, the child should ask an adult for help. A wrinkled nose, or a mouthful of teeth, means the animal feels threatened. A waiting tail means a dog is relaxed. A well-trained and well-socialized dog is less likely to bite. Dogs must learn obedience commands (sitting, staying, coming, heeling and down are the five basic commands). Dogs love to be rewarded for acting and playing well. Go to the next page to find out 10 fun games kids and dogs can play together. Fetching people is not one of them — although it could be. Content Go get the stick, girl. Carry on. It’s a good girl ... bring it to daddy. Ivy Sue brings the stick to daddy... bring it here. No, I'm not chasing you. Ivy gets ... come over here.

Ah, fetch, one of the easiest, tasiest, and sometimes frustrating games a kid can play with a dog. All that’s needed is a stick, a toy or a ball. Fetch is a great exercise for the dog and if done correctly, the game both child and dog teamwork [source: Dale]. Ad A few people suggest that some breeds (of dogs, not children) are better to fetch than others. They say regaining a ball and returning it is much like herd animals, which some dogs instinctively do. Whether it’s like herds or not, picking up is easy to play. The trick is to use the same toy just for this game, that way the dog knows exactly what’s going to happen. Also make sure your child gives the dog commands in an upbeat and fun voice [source: Dale]. The correct way to play is for the dog to fetch the stick or ball and return to their child by dropping it to his or her feet or put it in their hands. The last step doesn’t come easy after a few dogs.

Therefore, the child must teach the dog to drop it or give it. When the dog obeys the commands, make sure your child gives the dog a treat and praises it [source: ASPCA]. Other dogs can retrieve the toys, but not return at all. As most dog trainers will tell you, at this point it’s appropriate to call the dog by name, bring your outstretched right hand over to your left shoulder and say here. If the dog is unresponsive, the child should say the command again, make the hand gesture and get the pooch. Eventually, something will click and every time the animal hears here and sees the arm gesture, it will return to you, toy in the mouth (hopefully). Sophie Lou - Ivy Sue’s older sister - likes to play tug boats. It’s her game of choice and she’s darn good at it. Tennis ball in the mouth - let’s play drag. Rope toy - c’mon dad, let’s play. She loves playing with her Ivy Sue and her other sister, McBeal. In 10 years, Sophie has never lost a game. She squats low like a linebacker, sticks her back quarter into the air, and reduces her centre of gravity. She grabbed the toy in her Labrador retriever jaws and locked them as tight as a vice grip. She pulls with such power that she can rip your arm off if you don’t let go. For the record: This is not the correct way for your child to play tug-of-war with their dog. There are some simple rules to follow when teaching your child to play tugboat, rules that my dog Sophie never learned. (OK, she wasn’t taught.) First, the child must hold the toy on each side with one hand. Then let them tell the dog to sit. When the dog sits, let your child wave the toy in front of the animal’s face and say get it, or take it. It is best if the dog grabs the toy from the middle. When the dog latches on, the toy moves up, down and sideways [source: ASPCA]. Ad Here’s the hard part - getting your dog to drop the toy on command. In 10 years, Sophie never mastered this part of the game. She’d rather drag and keep dragging. If I were trapped in a pool of oil like ol’ Uncle Petrie, Sophie would pull me out like nobody’s business. It’s not Sophie’s fault as we reminded me. That’s my fault. But I digress. The important part of the game is never screaming or scaring your dog when trying to get them to drop the toy. Your child to say give, drop or another command. Give the dog a treat when it reacts as it should. After a few times, the dog will get the hint and drop the toy [source: ASPCA]. Dogs will chase anything - cats, other dogs, cars - even bubbles. Having your child blow bubbles for the dog to catch is a fantastic game for smaller ones that are 3 to 8 years old. And you know what’s cool? They made special flavored bubbles especially for dogs. Unlike soap bubbles, these edible bubbles won’t have Fido an upset stomach [source: ASPCA]. If your dog is in bubbles, then chances are they’ll really be in rushing water out of a snake or water gun, especially one of those Super Soakers. Tell your child that once the dog stops chasing the water or bubbles that it’s time to stop playing — and never inject the snake or water gun into the dog’s face [source: ASPCA]. Ad There’s something great about a dog walking full-speed, jumping into the air and catching a Frisbee in his mouth. Some dogs appear to jump higher than Lebron James at playoff time. It’s a great exercise for the dog, and tons of fun for everyone else. Still, it’s a tough game to master, but with a little patience your child and your dog will be able to get the game in no time. Not all dogs are suitable for Frisbee toss. Great Danes? Not so much. Border collies and Jack Russell terriers? Perfect. Your dog should weigh between 30 to 50 pounds, have sound hips and already have the basic chase and recycling instincts. According to the Indy Dog and Disc Club, there are some do and don’ts to play Frisbee with your dog, especially if it’s the first time: Ad Starts by rolling the disc to the ground on its side. The Frisbee may break the dog in the snorting several times, but that’s OK. The dog will get used to it. When teaching the dog how to play, always use a reassuring and happy voice. NEVER throw the Frisbee directly at the dog. Don’t hit your dog with the disc. The dog will come to fear the toy and never play with it. NEVER push the dog too hard. Have fun, that’s the point. Don’t encourage your dog to jump. They can hurt their legs or hips. Dogs and children love to play and look for hiding. Furthermore, it’s a great game to play indoors. Before playing, the child should get a fistful of treats. The game can then begin. First, put the dog in the sitting or stay position. Let’s hope they’ve pre-mastered those commandments. If not, keep the dog through the collar for your child. Once the dog stays, your child, treats in hand, hides in another room. When your child is hidden, tell them to name the dog once by name. Wait while the dog searches. Finally, when the dog finds your child, make sure the child applauds the pooch give it a surprise. If you really want the dog to come into play, use chicken or cheese as treats. Every dog loves chicken and cheese cheese ASPCA]. Ad When you first start playing the game, make sure the dog can easily find your child. Making it too difficult will discourage Fido. If the dog masters the game, your child may be hiding in tougher spots [source: ASPCA]. Have you ever seen a dog agility competition on TV or in person? The dogs and their handlers maneuver through a series of obstacles, including tunnels, A-frames and weaving poles. It’s a blast to watch and more fun to do. On the fun scale, agility games are off the charts. Agility is a quick way to instil obedience into the dog. Navigating the course increases a dog’s self-confidence while providing a great opportunity for your child to bond with their four-legged pet. You don’t have to buy expensive equipment to set up your own agility course in your backyard. Your home is packed with things you can use. Just be creative. For example, an old band stuck to a tree branch can become a big leap if the dog is small enough. The dog can walk through an old toy plastic tunnel. A bar jump can pipe fashion out of PVC and use some cinder blocks as a base. You can use any type of pole or stick, including planting game, as weaving poles. You can also use a small table, or even a beach lounge chair as part of the course [source: Mom]. Hula hoops also work well. Ad You can even enroll your pooch in an agility program. Most dog trainers will tell you to join when your dog’s body is physically able to go through the rigors of the course and when it’s old enough to understand the basic assignments. The dog may have to take obedience 101 before moving on to agility training. Sometimes a dog learns how to shake, dance, roll over whether howl is a fun way for your child to spend quality time with their dog. Rewards, efficient praise and repetition are the only ways your pooch will learn tricks. One of the easiest to teach is the dogs handshake. Once your dog is in the sitting position, grab its paw and say paw. Give them a surprise. After several times to do so, the dog will do it automatically every time you ask [source: Dog Training Guide]. Giving kisses is also delicious, although some dogs will do it without even thinking. Put a little peanut butter on your face and say kisses. They will understand the command in no time [source: Dog Training Guide]. Ad Her name is Chaser and she’s one smart puppy. How smart? She can understand 1,022 words. Not just any old words like sitting and staying. Oh no. Chaser knows the names of more than 1,000 objects - mostly toys - and she can go find any one of them at any time [source: The Week]. Chaser owner John W. Pilley, a psychologist at Wofford University in South Carolina, told Chaser practice getting the objects when Chaser was a puppy. For four to five hours each day, Pilley repeated the names of one or two new objects. He then hid the toys and and Chaser to fetch them. Chaser brought back the toys when asked [source: The Week]. Ad Of course, no one expects your puppy to understand the names of 1,000 or more toys. Still, your child can learn the most any dog - Chaser is a bright border collie - to bring back a particular toy using the repetition, praise and reward scenario. Chaser was so good at playing, that she still wants Pilley to teach her every day [source: The Week]. Your dog might not bend a football like David Beckham, but your kid and pet may have a blast playing the game. Of course, dogs use their noses to kick the ball. One way to play the game is for the kid and the dog to get the ball away from each other. When playing, it is important that the dog is not allowed to bite your child’s clothes or shoes. If that happens, just slow the game down and tell the dog to sit, or off [source: Dog Training Academy]. If your child is really into football, they can teach the family dog how to score a goal. Unlike just kicking the ball back and forth, learning a dog to kick and score with their noses is a little more complicated, but it can be done [source: Your dog needs you]. Ad Your kids might not know that Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers liked to cut up a carpet, or that John Travolta knew his way around the disco in Saturday Night Fever, but they might enjoy dancing with their dog. Doggie dancing is one of the latest, and perhaps coolest, activities people and dogs can do with each other. With just one search on YouTube and you can see that it looks like a ton of fun and is quite a craze - one dance dog video has 10.8 million views. The object is for your child (and you, if you will) to dance with your dog. Whether they’re dancing the rumba, cha cha or the flamenco, the dogs don’t have two left paws like most men. Doggie dance takes patience and time. It’s not as easy as fetching a stick. However, doggie dancing can use your child their imagination as they plan and choreograph the dance steps they want to do with their pet. There are even doggie dance competitions, and one lady has the dream of getting it an Olympic sport [source: Leader]. She may be barking the wrong tree. What do you get when you mix a golden retriever and a puddle? An oodleriever? Nope — you get a goldendoodle. They are large pets but have a ton of rambunctious energy. American Kennel Club. The dog listener. (Aug. 19, 2011). . Fun activities for children and pets. (Aug. 19, 2011). . 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## Dog fighting games

