

# Safety starts at home

**Know the signs,  
prevent dog attacks**

## **Any dog can bite, regardless of its size, age, or breed.**

Young children are most at risk from dog attacks, especially those aged 0 to 4. Most dog attacks happen at home, or in familiar environments.

## **Supervise or separate**

To reduce the risk of dog bites, actively supervise your children and dogs, or keep them separated.

Children and adults should:

- pat a dog's side, not its head
- never hug a dog around the neck as some dogs find it overwhelming
- be gentle when playing. Rough play can excite or scare a dog
- give dogs alone time. Never bother a dog when it's eating, sleeping or caring for puppies
- never stare intensely at a dog. They can interpret this as threatening behaviour.

**More information:**  
[wearefamily.nsw.gov.au/  
understanding.html#dogs](http://wearefamily.nsw.gov.au/understanding.html#dogs)

