



DoggoneSafe.com's Supervision Guidelines

DoggoneSafe.com is one of my favorite organizations. They have given me permission to reprint their supervision guidelines in the *Living with Kids and Dogs* book and website.

Many parents wonder when a child is old enough to interact with or walk a dog without supervision.

Unfortunately there is no “one size fits all” rule. You are going to have to evaluate both your child and your dog to decide when the time is right.

DoggoneSafe.com suggests

- When the child can read the dog's body language
- When the child and dog have a mutually respectful relationship
- When the dog will happily and willingly follow directions from the child
- If the dog has never shown any sign of aggression toward people or other dogs and does not chase cars, cats, or other animals
- When the child knows how to interpret situations and take appropriate action.

Most kids under 12 will not meet these criteria.

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