



## SHARE YOUR FOSTERING EXPERIENCE

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Millions of people will add a new pet to their family this year. When families choose to adopt a pet from a shelter or a rescue group, they are helping to save the lives of homeless pets. Because you've fostered a pet, you are a perfect person to educate others on why they should adopt their next pet. Here are some of the benefits of adopting a dog that you could mention while educating others.

- Adopting a dog helps save a life. When people adopt a dog, they provide a loving home to a pet in need and free up space for another pet to be rescued.
- You can adopt a dog that's already fully grown. Having an active, playful puppy can be a lot of work. Adult dogs may be more laid-back and they are usually housetrained. It is also less likely that they will chew up your shoes and other household items.
- You can adopt a dog or puppy who's right for your family. If a family has a busy, active and loud household, an active and playful dog or puppy might be a good match. If they have a quiet and slow-moving household, they might want a lap dog who enjoys napping and shorter walks. Shelter or rescue group staff members take the time to get to know their adoptable dogs, which means they can help adopters find just the right dogs to fit their lifestyle.
- Buying from a breeder or pet store is expensive. Adopters save money because adoption costs are usually less than buying an animal from a pet shop or breeder, and the adoption fee usually includes spay or neuter surgery, vaccines and microchipping.
- Animals of all breeds, shapes, ages and sizes are available. Just because animals end up at a shelter or in a rescue group doesn't mean there is anything wrong with them. They just need a second chance.

### ACTIVITY

Download our activity sheet "[Finding a Forever Home.](#)"

## CREATE

Draw a big outline of your dog's face. It doesn't have to be perfect. Next, paint the dog with only blue paint. You can use light blue and dark blue paint. After you have painted the dog's face, then paint the background orange. You can choose any shade of orange. Orange and blue are complementary colors. They are directly opposite each other on the color wheel and look great together.

If you don't have paints, use crayons, chalk art, markers or you can cut out colored paper.

Other activities to try:

- Circle all the things your foster dog or puppy loves to do: snuggling, sitting in laps, following people, hiding, climbing, chasing toys, lying in the sun, sleeping on or near you, barking, playing fetch, playing with other dogs, hogging the bed, begging for treats, loving a ball, putting a paw on your nose, twirling in circles when excited, waking you up by licking your face or talking to you.
- Circle all the words that describe your foster dog or puppy. Here are some adjectives to get you started: chill, fun, energetic, clever, confident, charming, friendly, affectionate, loyal, athletic, mischievous, brave, funny, gentle, quiet, fearless, faithful, peaceful, amusing, cheerful, wise, patient, easygoing, determined, suave, zealous, shy, cautious, talkative, fun, happy, alert, mellow, intelligent and thoughtful.

## READ

Curl up with your foster dog and read her your favorite book. If your foster dog is shy, try quietly sitting in the room and softly reading your book. It might encourage her to come out and explore.

Do you want to read a new book? Check your school or local library for the title below. If you don't have time to stop by the library have your parent or guardian search the internet and see if you can access the story online.

***Max Talks to Me*** by Claire Buchwald, illustrated by Karen Ritz

## PLAY

Create an agility course that you and your friends can do. Then see if your dog wants to give it a try. Just make sure everyone takes turns doing the obstacle course, so you don't run into your friends or your dog!

Some things to try:

- Lay a broom over two chairs so you can crawl under it.
- Balance a hula hoop between two chairs so you can crawl through it.
- Line up soup or dog food cans with enough room for you to weave through.
- Use an ottoman or a bench as an obstacle that you must go around.

When you want your dog to give it a try, have all the humans sit still and put dog treats out on each area. Watch and observe!

## SHARE

With the permission of your parent or guardian, create a virtual adoption poster to help attract possible adopters and encourage more people to adopt and foster! Use the hash tags #BFFosterCamp #BFFamilyFun to help spread the word.

Look at the words you circled above and include those on your poster. Be sure to include:

- What's beautiful about her fur
- What her eyes say to you
- What favorite game she likes to play
- What her personality is like

When creating your poster and introducing your foster dog to the world, be sure to include some of this information about them:

My foster dog's name is \_\_\_\_\_ .

She is \_\_\_\_ years/months (circle one) old.

She loves to \_\_\_\_\_ during the day.

Her favorite thing to do at playtime is \_\_\_\_\_. Her fur is extra special because it is \_\_\_\_\_. Her eyes are a beautiful color of \_\_\_\_\_ and it reminds people of an \_\_\_\_\_.

She often looks like she's thinking about \_\_\_\_\_.

She wishes she had a home where she could get lots of \_\_\_\_\_.

She connects with people who are very \_\_\_\_\_.

If you are not able to share it on social media, print it out and share with your friends around school or at your local library. If you do post it on social media use **#BFFosterCamp** and **#BFFamilyFun**.

Thanks again for participating in Best Friends Foster Camp. You helped save a life!

