



ENGAGEMENT GAMES

Back Up - Invite

The goal is to build engagement and interaction between you and your dog. Dogs like to chase objects moving away from them.

Start by taking just one step back so as not to get too far away from the dog. Use a toy for this exercise, but do not obsess over the toy. If the dog grabs the toy, wonderful, but otherwise, you should be engaging and energetic and just play with your dog.

Be upbeat and make inviting sounds to keep the dog engaged. Tug session should be energetic at a level the dog enjoys, but very, very short. Dog always wins. Let go of the toy rather than require the dog to let go of the toy.

This is a good game when you are waiting your turn on the equipment.

Making Food Come Alive

This exercise is delivering food in an exciting and dynamic manner. This builds enthusiasm in your dog for chasing you and creates focus on your hand, which forms the basis for handling cues later.

Your dog should chase your hand to get to the food...in a kind of keep-away. You can also add a sound such as "shooosh" to make the game even more exciting.

This is a good game when you are waiting your turn on the equipment.

Restrained Recall

Have someone hold your dog or dog's leash. Lead out a few steps, sink down into your knees slightly to create excitement. When your dog is anxiously wanting to get to you, call your dog's name and take off running. Assistant releases your dog who should race to you.

Build excitement and anticipation BEFORE your dog is released. Maintain eye contact with your dog and be sure your dog comes to the target hand on the side cued. Work both sides and reward at reinforcement zone with a YES! Marker.