

Program Profile – Be a Tree™

Concepts Covered

- ❖ “Be a tree” if a strange dog approaches or any dog is threatening or frightening
- ❖ What a safe dog looks like
- ❖ What a dangerous dog looks like
- ❖ How to interact safely with a dog
- ❖ How to meet a dog safely
- ❖ How dogs talk with their tails and other body language
- ❖ How dogs warn in subtle ways that they want to be left alone
- ❖ Understand what constitutes dangerous behaviour around dogs
- ❖ Don't talk to strangers even if they have a cute dog or have lost their dog



Be a Tree

1. Stop
2. Fold your branches
3. Watch your roots grow
4. Count in your head until help comes

No live dogs are used in the program

The Be A Tree program is fun and terrific. The kids and teachers loved it..

Jennifer Shryock – Dog Bite Prevention Educator and Dog Behavior Specialist – Family Paws
www.familypaws.com

I believe your program [Be a Tree] is the best dog bite prevention program available.

Sherri Utter – Retired Elementary School Teacher, Animatch Volunteer

Teaching methods used in the Be a Tree Program:

- ❖ Modelling – presenter will demonstrate safe ways to act around dogs
- ❖ Role playing – presenter will help students act out safe responses to scenarios involving dogs
- ❖ Simon Says – presenter will play Simon Says to illustrate safe vs dangerous actions
- ❖ Visual learning – students will see photos and learn to interpret dog body language
- ❖ Conditioning – students will practice “being trees” numerous times during the program
- ❖ Tool box concept –students will fill their “tool box” with the tools to help them stay safe
- ❖ Positive reinforcement – students are set up to succeed and will be praised (everyone receives something to take home)

Program details:

- ❖ Program lasts for 45 minutes (can be adapted to 30-60 minutes)
- ❖ Lots of audience participation and physical activity – all kids participate regardless of the number
- ❖ Lots of large size photos to illustrate dog body language
- ❖ Maximum group size 100 students

Knowledge Empowers Children to Make Safe Choices Around Dogs