

NEXT LEVEL

Mr. ROGERS

BIG IDEA *Hacks*

Our dogs are obviously capable of learning and understanding all kinds of words and phrases for the people, places, events, objects, activities, etc., that we can narrate for them throughout their days in the interest of implementing the amazing Mr. Rogers Hack. But did you know that they can also learn CONCEPTS? Get ready, because these next hacks take the Mr. Rogers game to a whole new level!

THE PICKLE (HELP)

Hack

MR. ROGERS “Big Idea”

WHEN to use it

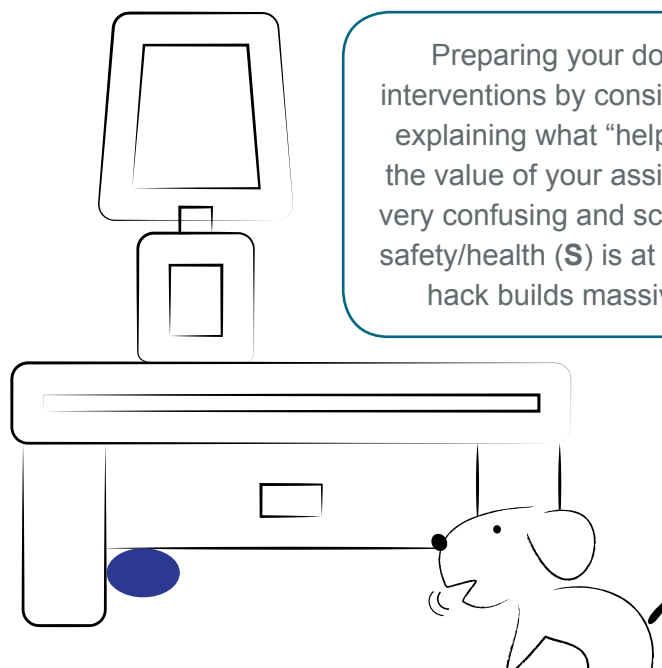
As with all the other Mr. Rogers “Big Idea” concept hacks, this one phrase can be used to help your dog understand a broader “idea” beyond names for specific events, objects, individuals, activities, etc.

In this case, the concept “*help*” tells your dog your intentions of good will to assist them when they are in a pickle - with a need or problem across a variety of very different contexts, preparing them for those very challenging moments in which you will NEED to intervene on their behalf.

HOW it works

You’re tapping into the dog’s GENETIC (G) design as a social animal who understands giving and receiving “help” from others in life.

Many events in your dog’s ENVIRONMENT (E) can create sudden and serious needs or problems for them for which their acceptance of your interventions will be absolutely necessary.



Preparing your dog for those necessary interventions by consistently demonstrating and explaining what “help” means teaches (L) her the value of your assistance in those otherwise very confusing and scary situations in which her safety/health (S) is at risk. Everything about this hack builds massive social currency (E)!



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HOW to use it

In any of the following kinds of conditions in which you are going to do something helpful for your dog, you will look at your dog and say your chosen word or phrase that indicates you are “**helping**”, so that when those stakes are high and they might otherwise feel manhandled / defensive you can clearly explain to them that you are in fact doing them a favor:

Whenever your dog REALLY needs your help, you will say the phrase and take a moment to make eye contact with them before proceeding to try to stop the bleeding, get them untangled from the barb wire, etc. They can then know that you’re trying to help them and be less anxious and more cooperative. You can even explain when others are “helping” too!



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 ♥ **Open a door or gate for them that they want to go through.**

♥ **Take off the leash so your dog can run at the park or go get a drink of water when he gets home.**

♥ **Fill an empty water bowl when your dog is thirsty or his food bowl when he’s hungry and ready for his meal.**

♥ **Let your dog outside when they are dying to relieve themselves.**

♥ **Retrieve a toy or bone stuck under the furniture.**

♥ **Remove a tangled leash or other foreign object stuck on their body.**

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