By following the guidelines listed below you can build a healthy and safe relationship between children and your puppy.

• **Supervision** – Your puppy should never be left alone with a child. Once you are confident that children and your puppy know how to behave around each other you can stay in the background but be ready to intervene if necessary.

• **Body Language** – Teach children about canine body language so they can learn to understand how a dog is feeling. A fun and interactive book to help both children and adults understand canine communication is *A Kid’s Comprehensive Guide to Speaking Dog* by Niki Tudge.

• **Interaction** – Teach children how to properly interact with your puppy. Use a stuffed animal to practice petting and appropriate interaction ahead of time.

• **Respect Space** – Ensure your puppy has a safe retreat where she can go that is off limits to children. This space should include a bed, her food and water bowls and toys. Teach children that the puppy is “invisible” when she is in the space, so no interaction is allowed.

• **Practice Quiet Puppy Talk** – Teach children to talk to the puppy using an “inside voice.”

• **Training & Care** – Involve children in the daily care and training of your puppy. Even very young children can participate with the help of an adult.