



Six-year-old J.C. Meets Three-month-old Ban-righ

J.C. is a bit afraid of dogs. His mother is going to have surgery and J.C. will be spending time at the home of my friends.

They have a Scottish Terrier puppy who loves little boys. If J.C. can learn to play comfortably and confidently with Ban-righ, he will feel more secure when he stays there.

I offered to help J.C. develop skills in playing with Ban-righ by using factual descriptions and non-verbal and vocal recognition.

J.C. says, "She's trying to bite me!"



After I had given J.C. some reassuring hugs and pats along with thumbs up, I said, "J.C. is playing with Ban-righ."

After that, J.C. was willing to get down from the couch and go outside.

He is still not comfortable when she jumps up, but he is not running away.



Back in the house, J.C. started to play with Ban-righ.

This is what I said.

"Wow!"

"You are both pulling on the rag."

"J.C. is looking at Ban-righ."

"He is smiling."

"She is smiling, too."

I was pleased to see that trust was growing between boy and puppy.



That was so much fun that J.C. took Ban-righ outside for a digging lesson.

"You are showing her how to dig."

"She is a terrier. Terriers like to dig."

"That hole is getting deep."

Daring to get down on her level and work together on a project earned J.C. a pat on the back and a kiss on the top of his head.



After racing around the back yard while I cheered them on, they headed back to the house for a water break. J.C. let Ban-righ follow right on his heels.

"You both ran fast."

"You have a little black shadow."

By playing together, J.C. and Ban-righ are learning to like and respect each other. I can see friendship growing.



When Ban-righ had started chewing on my sandal, I gave her a toy to chew on. She accepted the replacement.

When she started chewing on the basket, J.C. got her bone and encouraged her to chew on it instead.

"You are training her, too."

"You got her to stop biting her basket."

It was good to see J.C. work so well with Ban-righ. I could tell that they were learning to get along well, so each got a friendly pat.



Ban-righ is learning to come to us when we say, "Ban-righ, come." She often gets a treat for this.

J.C. asked if he could try. He called her, and she came right to him. He bent down, handed her the treat, patted her, and also used a factual description.

"You came when I called you!" It looks as if J.C. is learning more than one thing. I was so pleased, I gave J.C. a hug.



After he had his own dinner, J.C. held a frozen treat in his hand while Ban-righ ate it. What a show of confidence!

We are all happy with J.C.'s new skills in playing with Ban-righ. We know that he has overcome his fear and is ready to come and stay.

J.C's mom and dad are proud of him, too. They know he will feel comfortable while he visits there without them.

Using the methods I learned in this module to accomplish this made me feel like I want to keep practicing expressing warmth this way.

And I want to take the next module.

Project of Understanding

Module D1 Expressing Warmth to Children

Charise Miller