



# BACKYARD ADVENTURES

## LITTLE LAB WEEK 1: DOGS

EVER WONDER . . . WHETHER DOGS CAN SEE AND SMELL LIKE WE DO?

### What we learned this week:

- Dogs see and smell differently than we do.
- Dogs like to live in packs and follow a leader.
- Dogs can learn tricks and help people.

### Curiosity Circle

Today in our Curiosity Circle we learned all about dogs! First, we met our new friends Captain Curiosity and his dog, Popcorn the Wonder Dog. We discovered that the Captain had some questions about dogs, so we got busy finding the answers! First, we drew pictures of dogs out of the Mystery Box and sorted them by size. (There are more than 400 different breeds of dogs!) Next, we saw, smelled and acted like dogs, and learned the answers to these “Ever wonder?” questions: **Ever wonder if dogs can see like we do?** Dogs generally see things less clearly than we do, but are much better at detecting moving objects and seeing things in the dark. They have some color vision, but they see mostly in shades of reddish-gray. **Ever wonder if dogs can smell like we do?** Dogs have a much better sense of smell than we do. While people have 5 million scent receptors in their noses, dogs have over 200 million! In nature, a strong sense of smell helps dogs find food and avoid danger. Humans usually smell in a long, slow sniff, while dogs take short, fast sniffs -- usually 5 in a row. Dogs tend to remember smells a



long time, like we remember faces. **Ever what a dog’s family is like?** Dogs prefer to live in a pack with one leader and bunch of followers. When a dog meets another dog the first thing they do is decide which one is the leader. The lead dog will put its paws or head over the other dog’s shoulder, stare and listen, put its tail or ears up, stand over the other dog, rumble or growl. The follower dog will lift a paw in salute, roll over, lie down, put its ears down or wag its tail. **Ever wonder whether dogs can learn tricks and help people?** Many dogs can learn to do tricks (such as fetch or sit) very easily. In fact, some dogs can be taught more than 90 commands! Some dogs are trained from the time they are puppies to help people who are deaf, blind or physically disabled. Other dogs are trained to help in emergencies or to help police find things. Still other dogs are trained to guard houses and buildings, to herd other animals, or to help people hunt for food.

### Curiosity Centers

- ◆ **Discovery Activity:** We put on our “doggie vision” glasses and dug in the sand hunting for bones.
- ◆ **Manipulative Activity:** We pretended to be dogs sniffing out mystery smells.
- ◆ **Art Activity:** We made doggie ear headbands and doggie vision glasses.



### The Roundup & Big Deal

We wore our doggie glasses and ears and pretended to be dogs in a pack following our leader!

### Hey, Hey Word of the Day: CANINE

### Curiosity @ Home

This week at home talk about dogs! If you’re lucky enough to have one, or know someone who does, take the dog for a walk and watch how it acts around other dogs. Is your dog the leader or the follower? Do the movement of his ears and tail give you any clues? Does your dog do a lot of sniffing? Can you smell what he smells? Look at your dog – or pictures of dogs on the Internet – and talk to your little scientist about how they are the same as or different from other animals – like a cat, bird, or fish. Be sure to dress up in your doggie ears and glasses and play follow the leader. Or make your own doggie obstacle course to run through! Finally, be sure to name and take care of your new doggie friend!

## Songs & Poems

**C-Zone Song** (to the tune “I’m a Little Teapot”)  
Welcome Song  
Welcome to the C-Zone  
It’s time for us to start  
Exploring and learning  
We’ve all got a part  
(Spoken) So let’s fasten up our lab coats and get curious!

**Song to the Captain** (to the tune “Wheels on the Bus”)  
Dogs have a stronger sense of smell (What?)  
Sense of smell (What?)  
Sense of smell. (What?)  
Dogs have a stronger sense of smell (What?)  
Now who wants to tell the Captain?

**10 Little Doggies** (to the tune “10 Little Indians”)  
1 little  
2 little  
3 little doggies  
4 little  
5 little  
6 little doggies  
7 little  
8 little  
9 little doggies  
Sniffing all around.

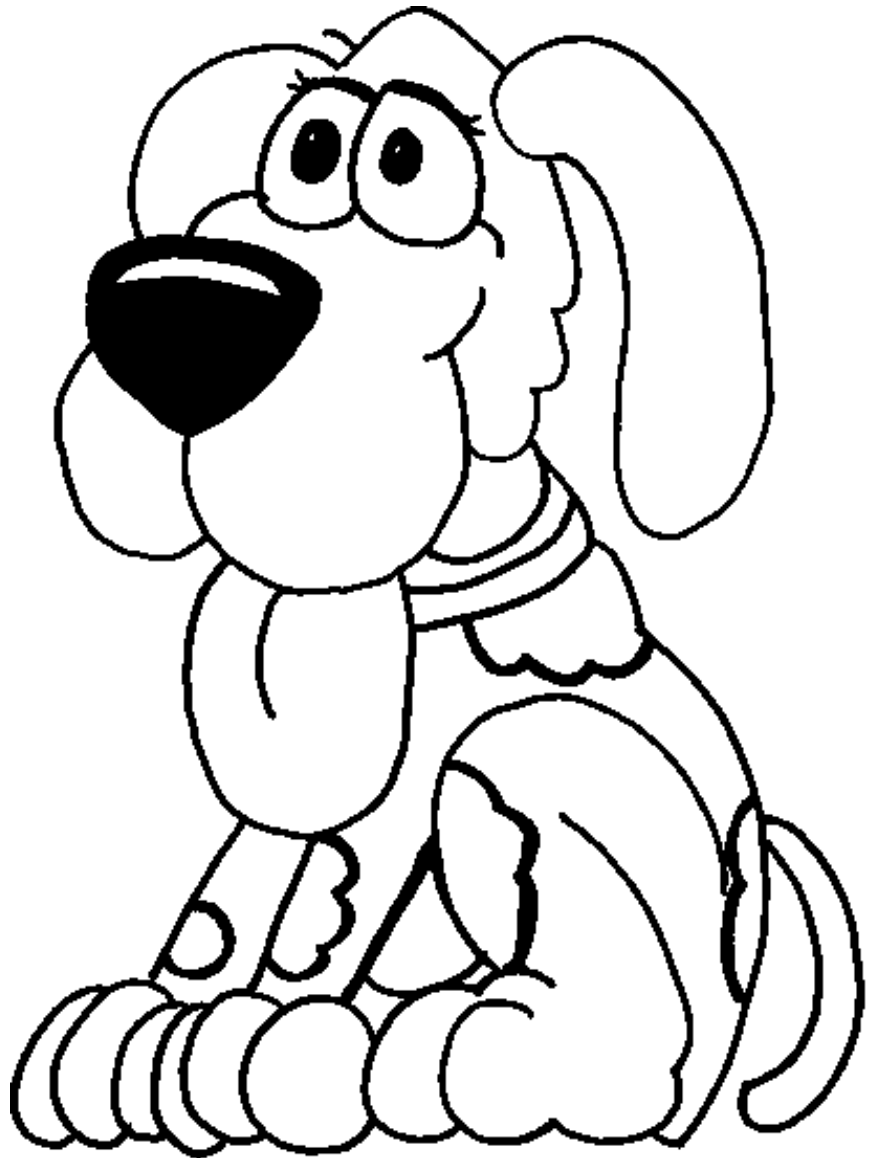
Repeat with “looking all around,”  
“following the leader” and  
“learning lots of tricks.”

**I’m a Little Puppy** (to the tune “I’m a Little Teapot”)  
I’m a little puppy  
Soft and brown  
Jumping up then laying down  
Scratch behind my ears I’ll wag my tail  
I’ll stay beside you, never fail!

**C-Zone Goodbye Song**  
Goodbye from the C-Zone  
It’s time for us to go  
The learning never stops  
Now tell me what you know!

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IS FOR DOG



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