

## Sesame Family Newsletter Archive

News and Notes from the Workshop  
Posted by Jordan Brown

SESAME FAMILY NEWSLETTER---The Joy of Pets  
March 3, 2004

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*Sunday in the Park with Mo  
\*\*\*Woof or Consequences  
\*\*\*Sesame Street Music Works  
\*\*\*All Creatures Great and Small  
\*\*\*It's a Dog's Life  
\*\*\*Sesame Street Beat  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH MO

One morning last weekend, I cheerfully said to my three-year-old son, "Hey, Finn, time to take Satchmo for a walk."

"No walk Mo! No walk Mo!" Finn protested. "I want to stay inside and play trains."

"C'mon, buddy," I coaxed, as I attached our cocker spaniel's leash. "You ALWAYS have fun when we take Mo to the park. Let's go."

I tried to slip on Finn's coat and hat, but he resisted.

"Mo doesn't know how to use the potty," I explained. "So, he has to go outside." I playfully add, "You don't want Mo to pee in your room, do you?"

"Yes, yes," he laughed, "In my room! Maybe here, and here, and here," pointing to various places in his room where he thought our dog should relieve himself.

As he laughed, I subtly slipped on his coat, and added, "When we get to the park, you can walk Daddy." I mimed putting the leash on my belt loop, and pretending I'm a dog. In a matter of minutes, we were out the door.

Once we were at the park, Finn completely forgot that he didn't want to go. He had a blast running and throwing a tennis ball for Mo. From time to time, he gave our dog a little kiss on the nose and said, "Love you, Mo."

Seeing Finn and Satchmo playing together is such a treat that it's well worth the minor aggravation beforehand. To get a toddler's-eye-view of pets, and vice-versa, I checked out these articles from Sesame Workshop.

THROUGH THE YEARS: PETS  
Enhancing the lives of you and your children.  
<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=107461>

THE CRITTER CONNECTION  
To get the right pet for your preschooler, here's what you must know.  
<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=1132>

### What's New

President's Letter  
Press Room

### What We Do

The Workshop At A Glance

### Who We Are

Senior Management  
Board of Trustees  
Site Credits

### Contact Us

### FAQs

### Newsletter

Subscribe  
Archive

### Privacy Policy

### Site Map

### Annual Report

Finn was happy to discover that the Workshop even has an online game about walking dogs.

#### MR. NOODLE HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

How many dogs does Mr. Noodle need to find? The answer changes each time you play.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=111180>

#### \*\*\*WOOF OR CONSEQUENCES

According to our veterinarian, the average dog has the intelligence of a 2-year-old child. Now that Finn is 3, he seems to take full advantage of his mental edge. Finn giggles with glee whenever he can figure out a way to playfully trick our dog. Sometimes he'll put one of Mo's favorite toys in a place that our dog can't reach. Or he'll toss one of Mo's balls in a room, Mo will chase it, then Finn will quickly close the door so Mo is temporarily trapped inside. My wife Ellen and I repeatedly remind our son that it's not a good idea to tease Mo. On the other hand, Mo seems to enjoy Finn's little tricks, and always comes back for more. Even if there are many balls around, Mo only wants to play with the one that Finn has. Although we don't want to encourage Finn's teasing, his time with Mo seems to be good-natured fun.

Before Finn was born, a friend alerted us that Mo might feel jealous about having a newborn in the house, and could react by behaving aggressively. After all, Mo had been the sole "baby" in our home for six years. Having seen him around other children, we were confident that they'd get along.

At first, everything went smoothly. Then, when Finn was about ten months old, we were watching TV when he started playing with Mo's floppy ears. We warned him to play nicely with the dog. Eager to test the limits, Finn tugged on Mo's ear. Mo responded by growling and scratching Finn's face near his eye. The injury, thank goodness, was minor. However, Ellen and I realized that we had to be extra careful watching "our boys." Since that day, Finn knows to back off when Mo gives the slightest growl. This article from Sesame Workshop includes some advice on teaching your child how to treat the family pet.

#### KIDS' BEST FRIEND?

Family dogs may pose a real threat.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=569>

#### \*\*\*SESAME STREET MUSIC WORKS

In the 1999 movie MY LIFE SO FAR, there's a sweet scene in which a fun-loving father and his young son pretend they are dogs. They bark, woof, pant, and howl as they chase each other. While Finn has never seen this movie, he does get a kick out of imitating animal noises, such as dogs, cats, and cows.

If your children enjoy making animal sounds, they will get a kick out of playing the Farm Music Game in Sesame Workshop's Music Zone. In this game, children create their own version of Old MacDonald performed by a chicken, a cow, and other farm animals.

#### FARM MUSIC GAME- "OLD MACDONALD"

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=11225057>

#### \*\*\*ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Since my sister Sharon was about 8 years old, she knew she wanted to be a vet when she grew up. To encourage her passion for animals, my parents let her have a variety of pets over the years--dogs, cats, guinea pigs, gerbils, rabbits, parakeets, rescued birds, and more.

I was reminded of all of Sharon's animals recently when I spent a few hours with Finn at a pet store. Finn seemed especially enchanted with the ferrets. He said things like, "Finn want to have a ferret RUN up the

stairs to his room. Finn feed the ferret carrots and hot dogs and chocolate chip cookies." That night, when Ellen heard about Finn's ferret obsession, she laughed, then whispered to me, "Honey, don't even think about it."

Since Finn enjoys watching Elmo play with his goldfish pal Dorothy on TV, we're considering getting our son a fish. A salesperson I spoke to said that goldfish can be less hearty than another inexpensive variety called Betta fish. Though these fish are friendly, the salesperson did warn me: "Don't put two male Betta fish in the same bowl together, or they'll try to kill each other." Charming. I later learned that these hearty fish are nicknamed "Siamese Fighting Fish."

When I asked Finn if he wanted a Betta fish, he said, "Finn want to have a Betta fish RUN up the stairs to his room. Finn feed the Betta fish carrots and hot dogs and chocolate chip cookies."

Before you purchase a new pet for your family, you might want to check out these articles from the Workshop.

#### BAD NEWS PETS

Iguanas, turtles, and other reptiles pose serious health risks for young children, babies, and fetuses.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=698>

#### PET ALLERGIES

What to do when your child is allergic to the family dog.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=64000>

#### \*\*\*IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Every night, Finn helps us feed Mo. He mixes together the different varieties of dog food. Once the dinner is ready, Finn hands me the spoon and says, "Hold Mo, Daddy, hold Mo!" As he carries the food over to the floor, Mo gets very excited with anticipation. "Wait for Finn, Mo, wait for Finn" my son says. When he says, "Ready!" I let go of Mo's collar, and our furry pal darts for his dinner bowl. Finn then runs to me with a huge smile, proud of a job well done.

#### \*\*\*SESAME STREET BEAT

In an upcoming episode of Sesame Street, everyone is eagerly awaiting the arrival of Baby Bear's new baby sister. When Baby Bear finds out the baby has been born, he goes to the hospital to visit Mama and the new baby. Baby Bear can't believe how small his sister is!

Watch Baby Bear meet his new sister, Curly Bear, for the very first time! Check your local PBS station to find out when this episode is airing where you live. Then join your Sesame pals for some online fun.

#### PBS KIDS: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=9697605>

#### THE NUMBER OF THE DAY IS TWO

Now that there are two siblings in the Bear family, color in this two-cool printable!

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=3089>

#### BABY BEAR BUILDS A SNOWMAN

Help Baby Bear find different object in this interactive game.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=1292>

#### BIG BIRD GETS A LETTER

Help Big Bird find objects that start with the letter he finds in his mailbox in this fun game!

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=11114201>

Did you know that Sesame Street is taped at the Kaufman Astoria Studios in Queens, New York? It's true! Other actors who have worked at the same studio include Bill Cosby, Marlene Dietrich, and the Marx Brothers!

Jordan Brown  
Sesame Workshop

Comments? Questions? Tell us what's on your mind. Kindly note that we are unable to respond to every email received.  
<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=11155037>

[Click here](#) to go back to the Newsletter Archive