This week your child is reading *The Right Dog for the Job*, a true story about the training of dogs to do special kinds of work.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Have you ever had to learn how to do something that was hard to do? Take turns telling about a time when you or your child had to learn to do something. Try to use these words.

*reward*  *disobey*  *confidence*  *patiently*  *performs*

**Comic Strip Puzzles**  Search your local newspaper for a comic strip that your child enjoys reading. Cut the comic strip into individual boxes. Then ask your child to arrange the boxes in the correct order. Repeat with several other comics.

**Tip!**  Choose a comic strip that has a clear sequence or ordered set of events.

**A Good Pet**  Work with your child to find books or websites that tell about different kinds of dogs. Which kind of dog would make a good pet for your family? Ask your child to give reasons for his or her choice.

**Challenge**  Help your child make a brochure for the kind of dog you chose. Include all of the characteristics that make it a good choice for a pet.
Working Dogs  Read and discuss this article with your child.

A Job Fit for a Dog

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has named categories for purebred dogs. One category is called Working Dogs. These dogs are bred and trained for hauling, rescuing, and guarding.

The AKC recognizes 26 breeds of Working Dogs. One is the Saint Bernard. These huge dogs once rescued travelers during snowstorms. Now Saint Bernards are often trained to pull carts. Another huge Working Dog is the Newfoundland. The Newfoundland used to haul nets for fishermen. This dog is also a great swimmer, even in icy water, and has an instinct to rescue people in water.

Two other Working Dogs with coats suited to cold weather are the Samoyed and the Great Pyrenees. The Samoyed is trained to pull sleds. The Great Pyrenees guards flocks of sheep.

Working Dogs that guard people include the Boxer and the Doberman Pinscher. Both dogs are medium-sized, strong, smart, and eager to work loyally for their human trainers.

The Working Life  Together, choose one working dog from the article you and your child read. Use the library or the Internet to find out more information about the kinds of work this dog does.

Book Links
- *The Winner's Walk*, by Nancy Ruth Patterson
- *Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories*, by Sandra Markle  CHALLENGE

Internet Challenge  Together, find and explore the website of your local animal shelter.

Discuss some of the programs they have for young people and volunteers.