

Attention Games: Part One

Play "The Eye Contact Game"

- Hold some treats in your hand and hold your hand out to one side.
- Don't say anything to get your dog's attention; just wait patiently while your dog stares at the treats to tries to get them (just hold your hand closed).
- The moment the dog tears his eyes off of the hand with the treats and looks at your face instead, click and treat!

Catch them in the act—The auto check-in.

- Find a non-distracting environment - your home kitchen or living room (not the dog park or beach!).
- Watch your dog's eyes. Whenever your dog looks at you, click or say your marker word, and give your dog a treat.
- Don't do anything special to get your dog's attention - just wait for it and capture it.
- Do this throughout the day.

One-minute rapid rewarding eye contact.

- For one minute, click or mark and treat every time your dog looks at you - as many times as you possibly can in one minute.
- Repeat this a few times.

Look at that.

- When your dog looks at another dog, person, or other thing that is very distracting, mark it by clicking or saying "yes" when he is looking at it. Reward when your dog looks back at you.
- Be sure to mark when your dog is calm and not when he is barking or overexcited. If your dog is over-excited, move a little farther away and try again.

When your dog can do these exercises at home, practice away from home in 10 or more locations.