



Hanni and Beth: Safe & Sound
by Beth Finkel, Illustrated by
Anthony Alex LeTourneau.
Blue Marlin Publications 2007.
Genre: Picture Book

You will need:

- T.D. character card for each child
- “Good Job!” activity supplies (page 6-3)
- Book display on helper dogs (optional)

Hanni and Beth: Safe & Sound

Host: **T.D.**

T.D. is a great friend to Helen—he’s fun, loyal, and willing to try most things. In *Hanni and Beth: Safe & Sound*, Hanni, like T.D., is a very good friend to Beth. As a specially trained Guide Dog, Hanni’s job is to help his blind owner, Beth, travel safely around the city.

Episode: **Firedog Martha (#108)**

Martha wants to pursue her dream of becoming a real firehouse dog, but the job is not as easy as it seems in her favorite book. (Available free at pbskids.org/martha/parentsteachers/bookclub/episodes.html or for purchase from iTunes®.)

Welcome

Sing the song *M-A-R-T-H-A* (see Supporting Materials) or use another warm-up activity of your choice.

Watch the Episode

Before watching. Explain that in this episode, Martha wants to help people by becoming a firedog. Ask children if they know any other jobs that help people. (Examples might include: firefighter, police officer, doctor, teacher, and so on.)

After watching. Ask children to talk about the episode. You may want to ask, *Do you know any other jobs that dogs have?* (Answers might include: rescue dogs, therapy dogs, search dogs, herding dogs, sled dogs, hunting dogs, service dogs, guard dogs, police dogs, acting dogs.)



Read the Book

Before you read. Show the cover of the book and read aloud the title, author, and illustrator. Explain that T.D. is a very good human friend to Helen and dogs can be loyal and great helpers, too. You can ask: *Have you ever seen a dog helping a blind person? What was the dog doing?*

As you read. Point out interesting pictures or words as you read. If a word seems challenging or unfamiliar, help children think about its meaning in the context of the story, then use simple terms to define it, such as:

- *Guide:* to show the way
- *Command:* something you're told to do

After you read. Discuss the book together. You may want to ask questions such as, *What is Hanni's job? How does Hanni help Beth?*

Do a Related Activity

Choose one or both of the "Good Job!" activities on page 6-3. Adapt the activities as needed or substitute one of your own.

Wrap Up

Gather kids together and review the various kinds of jobs dogs can do. You may want to spend some time browsing through a display of books about helper dogs. Ask kids, *What kind of helper dog would you like to be?* You can also substitute a wrap-up activity of your choice. Distribute the T.D. character card.



Good Job!

You will need:

- Poster board or chart paper
- Markers
- Paper
- Images of working dogs (from Internet, magazines, etc.)
- Glue

Option 1: Dog Commands

In this activity, children learn the words for five commands people use when training dogs to do specific actions. Before the session write the following commands on poster board or chart paper:

Speak = bark

Shake = lift paw and greet someone

Let's Go = start walking

Down = lay down

Stay = do not move

Tell children that some people teach their dogs specific words called *commands* for actions they want the dog to do. It's easier to live and work with dogs who know commands. Service dogs, like those that help people in wheelchairs, must be trained to know several commands so they can do things like turn lights on and off, open and close doors, carry things, and even remove socks from feet! Teach children the five commands provided and ask them to act out each command, saying *Speak! Shake! Let's go! Down! Stay!* Use the words to lead children in a game of *Hanni Says* (like *Simon Says*), or have them give commands to each other and act them out. Remind children that they should not approach or use commands with a dog unless given permission by the owner.

Option 2: Helping Hands

Have kids trace outlines of their hands. Help children cut them out to make "helping hand" coupons. Children can then write or dictate a promise they make to do something helpful for people that they know.

