

Jennie

Therapy dogs can help people in a lot of ways. Even dogs who aren't trained to be therapy dogs can help children with autism. That's how our dog Jennie helped my brother Shane who has autism.

When Shane was younger, and when we didn't have Jennie, Shane had a lot of meltdowns and he would get angry and frustrated sometimes. After we got Jennie, I noticed that he's not having so many meltdowns and he seems a lot happier. He still gets frustrated sometimes, but then my mom usually brings Jennie to his room to cheer him up.

It only takes one dog to make a life easier.



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Michael Gets Lost

One day there was a little boy named Michael. He and his dog Max loved to explore. One day Max and Michael went far out into the forest to play. Just then, they heard a sound. The wind whipped their faces and hair. Michael was scared. Max gently comforted Michael and led him into an opening in the trees.

Michael sighed. "Phew", he said, sitting on a rock. "Where are we?"
Max and Michael looked around. Finally, Michael stood up.
"I think we're lost," he declared, trying to hold back his tears.

Suddenly, Michael heard a loud howl. Michael gasped and crawled inside a log. Soon the howling stopped. But now everything was quiet. "Max, please find Mother!", Michael pleaded. His voice echoed through the forest. Max nodded and took off through the forest. He paused and looked back to see if Michael was okay. Michael nodded and motioned for Max to continue. Then Max ran until Michael couldn't see him anymore. "Go boy", I know you can do it," whispered Michael.

Max ran through the forest until he spotted a clearing in the woods. Eagerly, he bounded through the clearing and spotted Michael's house sitting on the green hill near Crescent Lake. Michael's mother was on the front porch reading a book. Max bounded over and sat on her lap. He barked and jumped up and down, then motioned for her to follow him. Michael's mother nodded and put down her book, and trotted alongside Max whose pink tongue was hanging out

Just then, Michael's mother and Max came to the openings in the trees. Michael was sitting on the log thinking about Max and his mom. Then he looked up. "Max! Mom!", he cried, running up to hug them. "I was worried sick about you," Michael's mother said, giving him a big hug. Max gave Michael a big, wet kiss. "Hey!", Michael laughed. But then he stopped.

A loud growl filled the forest. Michael grabbed his mother's hand. The trees started to tremble.

Suddenly, a large bear jumped out of the trees! Michael gasped. Max jumped out of Michael's arms and ran towards the bear. Max growled at the bear. Then bared his sharp teeth, but then turned away, and headed back into the woods. Michael and his mother stared at Max in wonder. Michael was speechless. Then he cried, "Max! You scared the bear away!"

Max gave Michael another big lick. "Good boy, Max. Now let's go home," said Michael's mother. When she turned away, Michael kneeled down and whispered in Max's ear. "You're the best dog a boy could have."

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