

## Exercise: Name Game

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The "selective hearing" at this age is often because owners have overused their name AND missed their opportunity to provide reinforcement when their puppy did pay attention. Your dog's focus is key to future training and this is a great place to start!

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### How to teach this:

1. Have some treats ready in your hand or a pocket.
  2. Say your dog's name once.
  3. When you say your dog's name, wait for them to give you any sign that they have heard you. This includes but is not limited to an ear flick, a head turn or a look in your direction.
  4. Once you have seen that they heard their name, mark with a "Yes" or a click and give your dog a treat!
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### Note:

Have fun with this! Be aware that this is **not** your recall. The Name Game exercise is purely to start building your relationship with your dog and help them to learn their name.

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### Trainer's Tip:

Because your dog's name is **not** a cue, especially not your recall, you can add a cue after their name if you want them to do anything other than look in your direction. For example, "Bailey, Sit!" or "Bailey, Touch!" Be sure to practice your dog's Name Game separately from other cues because your dog *can* learn "Bailey, Sit" as their "Sit" cue.

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**Video Link:** <https://twopaws-up.com/videos/name-game/>

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