

Mayo Clinic Minute: Benefits of having a family pet

Video	Audio
	There's something special about seeing kids bonding with a pet.
	And there are benefits too, says Mayo Clinic pediatrician Dr. Angela Mattke.
	"It can teach kids about responsibilities."
	Having a dog, for instance, can teach children about boundaries and respect.
	But before bringing home a pet, Dr. Mattke says there are some considerations.
Angela Mattke, M.D. Pediatrician Mayo Clinic	"The type of pet that you're going to be bringing into the family is really important. It's important to have these conversations and discussions before you get the pet, instead of having buyer's remorse later when you figure out that this might not be a good option for your family."
	Also, does anyone in the family have allergies? Pet hair isn't an allergen, but the dander or saliva may cause allergic reactions for some people.
	"You want to make sure that you're getting a pet that's not going to make your child or somebody else in the family's health adversely affected from it."
	Ask the questions, talk with the family and be ready for a lifetime of responsibility and joy.
	"Having a family pet can be a wonderful experience for families."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.