Meeting a new dog is exciting, but it can also be scary. This humorous how-to manual shows kids the best ways to interact with unfamiliar dogs, providing helpful tips about all sorts of dog behavior. Children often don’t understand what dogs’ actions mean and can misinterpret a threatening signal for a friendly one and vice versa. Kids and parents will return to Wendy Wahman’s playful illustrations again and again for useful reminders: Slow Down. Stay very still. And remember, don’t lick the dog!

My Personal Review:
I just received this book as a gift and love the illustrations. They're fun, downright zany, and full of energy. The dogs, even Maddie (who’s an anxious little thing), are representative of dogs that may be new to children or adults. Wahman’s recommendations are easy to remember and very effective. They’re meant to allow dogs and kids the space to slowly get to know each other - no patting on the head, instead just scratching or rubbing lightly on the cheek or chest, and no fingers outstretched to an unknown mouth but curling fingers into a protected ball. There are suggestions for offering a snack (with the hand held flat) and recognizing the signs for a fearful dog. Wahman’s rhymes are catchy and simple, and they stay with you. I’m ordering some for gifts to my nieces and nephew who don’t have dogs but do have occasional contact. Loved this!

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