

# Beginning Name Recognition

## OBJECTIVE

Once the puppy is able to follow a piece of food that has been tossed a few inches away, I can start the process of teaching her that a certain sound (CHISPA!) means something good is happening in my direction. I'm after a head turn toward me with this little behavior, and it's a natural progression from "FOLLOW THE FOOD" because it resets the puppy to look away from me for the NEXT thrown piece, which resets the puppy to look BACK to me when I make the CHISPA! sound :)

This and FOLLOW THE FOOD are part and parcel of the same thing, really; one follows from the other organically.

## What to do

- Hold a piece of food or two in your hand and move your hand in front of your puppy's face, slowly enough that your puppy can follow it, first with just her head, and then with her whole body, taking a few steps after it
- Hold a piece of food, make sure the puppy can SEE it, and toss it, just a few inches. Make a show of tossing it, not too quickly, so the puppy sees it being tossed, sees it landing, and moves toward it to eat it.
- Just as the puppy is finishing up eating her piece of food, cheerfully call her name, and when she turns her head back toward you, reward, and repeat.

## Tips to remember

Make sure you're using food the puppy wants to eat, AND make sure the food is easily spotted both in your hand, in the air, and on the ground! Don't go overboard here, just a few cookies (less than TEN!!) and MOVE ON. You can come back to this behavior (and you will) often in any case.



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