



“What have you got?”

This phrase can often become a phrase that dogs learn for the wrong reason. They learn that when they have something, we're going to take it away so they'll start to run off or guard the item they have. This game switches the meaning.

To play:

1. Pick up your puppies favourite toy
2. Gently hold your puppy by their collar or harness, or place a hand on their chest.
3. Throw their toy out ahead of them, once it's on the floor and still, let go of them.
4. Once they've got the toy, put on your most excited, happy voice and say “What have you got?!”
5. Move away from them once you've said it to encourage them to come to you, you may need to crouch down, hold out your hands to them and act a little bit silly
6. When they get to you, tug on the toy, give them a scratch and a rub and continue to be a bit silly **LET THEM KEEP HOLD OF THE TOY**
7. If they drop the toy by themselves, throw the toy again and repeat the process.

8. If they don't drop the toy, throw a different toy

Next steps:

1. Practise with different items that are safe for your puppy to pick up
2. Practise when they've picked up something by themselves that you haven't thrown

The aim is not to teach your puppy to drop the toy, this comes later. We're just teaching them to come and show you what they have. This is an invaluable skill that prevents resource guarding and is helpful for when they inevitably find something we would like to take from them.