

# Pointers For Parents

## Teaching Your Child Love And Acceptance

(NAPSA)—If you think a pet can teach a child about unconditional love, you're barking up the right tree. A delightful illustration of this can be seen in "Because of Winn-Dixie," a film that shows that acceptance can be found in the most unlikely people and places.

Pets teach children that all animals are individual and unique, just as people are. In the movie, the outcasts and recluses of a little Florida town are brought together by a most extraordinary dog, Winn-Dixie, and a little girl.

Based on the best-selling book "Because of Winn-Dixie," the film is a heartwarming "tail" of a young girl (Annasophia Robb) whose life is changed by a scruffy, fun-loving pooch she names Winn-Dixie. The special bond between them works magic on her reserved dad (Jeff Daniels) and the eccentric townspeople they meet during one unforgettable summer.

Child experts say that pets are not only good companions, they can teach a child compassion. A pet helps a young person develop a sense of responsibility as he or she



**A LESSON FROM THE MOVIES—In a heartwarming film, a young girl and an entire town are changed by a scruffy, fun-loving pooch.**

learns to care for a living creature.

Also, pets give love with no expectations and in this way teach unconditional love. No matter how bad your day, how tired or frustrated you may feel, when you come home, there's your dog—tail wagging, ready to give and receive love.

For those who missed the theatrical release of "Because of Winn-Dixie," it is now available on DVD.