



 Southeastern Guide Dogs

PupDate **1**

Kinsley

Life in Puppy
Kindergarten

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PUPPY 



Practice and Play

Kinsley is a happy puppy with a serious side who watches her teachers with soulful eyes. She began her early education at just two days old, as staff and volunteers gently taught her to feel comfortable with humans. As she advanced through preschool and kindergarten, every opportunity for play became a time for learning. Staff and volunteers exposed her to many different sights, sounds, textures,

and novel objects, all part of her “play with a purpose” curriculum. Whether stepping over a hurdle on the obstacle course or placing her paws on an exercise peanut, she improved her body positioning awareness, stability, and core strength. But for

Kinsley, it was all fun and games!



A Brave and Smart Student

At eight weeks old, puppies in training experience standardized assessments to observe their reactions to various stimuli—the humming sound of a vacuum cleaner; the surprise of a person wearing an unusual costume; a noisy windup toy bouncing away; and an umbrella opening in their path, for example. Kinsley demonstrated that she could remain relaxed and quickly recover when encountering new objects, motion, and noises. She could trot by an open umbrella, and a roly-poly fitness apparatus didn’t faze her. She is so brave and smart!

Someday, when guiding someone with a visual impairment, Kinsley may



need to ignore the sound of a passing motorcycle or a squirrel that darts into her path. She will need to use instinct, learned skills, and good judgement to keep her person safe.

// Good work!

Practicing proper body placement on a raised platform may look simple, but it can help prepare Kinsley for advanced skills such as heeling and adjusting to the walking pace of someone at the other end of a leash or harness. As she practiced, Kinsley showed she’s a hard worker who loves to please!





An Uncommon Girl

It takes a special puppy to have the physical, emotional, and mental attributes that make for a superhero working dog, and Kinsley is showing excellent potential so far. She did an impressive job responding to cues and building her basic skills, such as *follow me* and *follow me on leash*. After graduating from Puppy Kindergarten, she moved to the home of her volunteer puppy raisers, Art and Joyce. Their special role is to expose Kinsley to new environments, experiences, and people on her training journey. Someday, she may become a guide dog for someone who is visually

impaired, a service dog for a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder, or a Kids Companion Dog for a child with significant challenges. Great goals, Kinsley!



Share the joy!

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[GuideDogs.org/puppy](https://www.GuideDogs.org/puppy)

**WATCH FOR KINSLEY'S
NEXT PUPDATE
IN NOVEMBER**