

-  Set up rules such as what the dog can do and where the dog can go. Everyone needs to stick to these rules.
-  Make sure everyone is happy with the dog you have chosen.
-  Make sure that your children follow the rules around a dog. Here are some examples.:



No touching when the dog is eating or sleeping, (would you like to be pestered at meals times or when you are asleep?).



No pulling on the dog's tail, ears, etc., (would you like to have your hair pulled?).



Play nicely with your dog using fetch games or do some training.

**NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN
WITH A DOG UNATTENDED**

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YOU & your new DOG



DOGS & CHILDREN



DOGS & CHILDREN

Whether you have children and are thinking of getting a dog or if you already have a dog and expecting a baby, here are some guidelines for you to consider.

Expecting a baby?

The more time you have to prepare before the baby arrives the better. When you first decided to have a dog you needed to think about what alterations you had to make. Similarly a dog needs to adjust around you but a few changes will have to be made in order to help with the new arrival.

- 🐾 If you allowed your dog on the furniture you may want to consider changing this. Your dog will not understand that he cannot go on the furniture when a baby is there. So start now by re-training your dog not to go onto the furniture.
- 🐾 If you intend to have a nursery or a room where the baby will be, start to train your dog not to go in this room and use a stair gate if needed to create a barrier. Spend some time in this room with the dog on the other side and reward any good behaviour such as lying down, ignoring, etc.
- 🐾 Brush up on the obedience. Make sure he has a good sit, stay, leave command etc.
- 🐾 Start walking the dog alongside the pram so that he can get used to a new way of walking.

- 🐾 Allow the dog to smell the baby's items and reward good behaviour such as leaving the object alone, with a treat, toy or anything that your dog really enjoys thereby associating the baby's items with positive things but something that he cannot play with.
- 🐾 You can buy a CD that has baby sounds on, or if you know someone who can record baby noises it is a good idea to play this so the dog gets used to these. Start off low and then increase the volume, again reward to make it a positive association. You can also get a toy baby that makes noises which you can use to carry around so that you can get the dog used to you holding and dealing with a baby.
- 🐾 Don't forget to spend quality time with the dog, especially when the baby arrives, and although you and the rest of the family will be tired, the dog has needs also.
- 🐾 The more the dog is exercised too the less likely he will be to mess you about. If you cannot exercise during the first month or two see if there is someone else who can, even a dog walker. Spend some time with the dog in the garden; make sure he doesn't get pushed out.

NO MATTER WHAT, NEVER LEAVE A DOG ALONE WITH THE BABY

You already have children and want a dog?

- 🐾 Ensure that everyone in the family has agreed to get a dog. Decide what kind of dog suits you best, in terms of size, age, energy levels and how long it will be left for. A lot of people will choose a puppy to grow up with the kids, but it is important to remember a puppy is like having another child.
- 🐾 If you have very young children will you have the time to train and supervise the pup as well as the children?
- 🐾 It can be an exciting time for the children to get a dog. If they are old enough get them to do a little research on dogs, what they need, what type of breed you are looking for, what the breed was bred for as these traits will come out in the dog. For example, terriers like to dig so make sure you provide a doggie sand pit or area that he can dig and not your flower bed. Devise a rota of tasks that everyone can be a part of, e.g. feeding, walking, playing, and training. (Ensure all tasks are supervised by an adult).