

# Bringing Baby Home



## Prepare Enrichment:

Include in your nesting; making frozen treats for your pup, stuffed topples, bell peppers, and puzzle games. **These will keep your dog occupied in a safe place while you fully pay attention to your baby** (see my enrichment handouts for more ideas).

## Using your dog's nose:

While your dog is relaxed bring diapers, wipes, and clothes that have been washed in the same detergent you will be using for your baby. If they get excited that you are approaching, wait for your dog to calm down. Then calmly talk, pet, and treat your dog while they are near the item. (Do this for 2 minutes each day). **Do not leave this item with your dog, this item represents your baby.**

## Playing novel sounds:

Provides expectant parents with a chance to practice their responses in those moments (i.e. "Yes, that's the baby. You go lie down. I've got this.") Along with actual baby cries, you may want to play other novel sounds (cats meowing, ducks quacking, doorbells ringing, etc). You want to become familiar with how your dog looks when curious and/or excited. **Can your dog still respond to your cues when curious?** Or maybe, practice standing up quickly and walking to another room, simulating you rushing to the baby. **How will your dog react?**

## Body language:

**Your dog's socialization may decrease as it gets older, so always watch your dog's body language around your kids** (i.e., as soon as you see a toughen flick or whale eyes separate your dog and kid), **When in doubt, space it out!**

## Homecoming:

it is recommended to not have a "formal" introduction our dog has an incredibly strong sense of smell and can become associated with your child just by being in proximity. **Introduction in extreme proximity can cause confusion and conflict in your dog.** We want to normalize slowly! Observation from a distance during the first couple of weeks we want inclusion without contact!

## Your dog has the power to hurt:

No matter how well you know your dog, **any dog with teeth can bite!** Even an excited dog can do a lot of damage to a baby. **Always be actively supervising** any time your dog and kid are together.

Unleashed Private Dog Training

<https://www.unleashedwithaulilovoi.com/>

It Starts with a Sit by: Debby Lucken

## Associate baby with good things:

(not exciting or worrying) Use your dog's nose and ears to **prepare your dog for the new sounds and smells that come with a baby.**

Picture of my son's homecoming



## Doggy enrichment land:

**No kids in crates**, never allow your kid to taunt your dog. This is a **safe place**, not a cage! A spare bedroom with a baby gate or a playpen (with several enrichment toys, scattered treats and kibble, and a bowl of water) is the best option to keep your dog separated when your baby needs your full attention.

## Postpartum:

It takes a village to raise a kid and dog, even if your Village includes dog walkers to come and walk your dogs while you are in the hospital. **You need to rest and recover not only physically but mentally also!**