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Getting yourself and your k9 baby ready ahead of time.

Here are some suggestions.

1. Review and firm up obedience
 - A. Parents should practice giving commands comfortably in any position.
Ex: sitting back on a couch, lying in bed, sitting on the floor.
 - B. Be consistent with commands.
2. Socialize your dog around children in a positive and controlled environment.
3. Observe and become aware of how their dog seeks their attention.
4. Know your dog's sensitivities. Research the breed or mixes. Does he startle with fast motion, noises etc
5. Begin a baby schedule that includes:
 - A. Varied feeding times.
 - B. Crating or "dog zone" times
 - C. Vary exercise routines
 - D. Ignore attention seeking behavior
6. Allow your dog to become familiar with the baby equipment.
7. Teach your dog the behaviors you want around the equipment vs. what you do not want. Doing this ahead makes a world of difference!
8. Parents can use the baby carrier they plan to use with their baby and put a teddy bear in it to get the feeling of what it will be like moving with this.
9. Work with your dog while you wear this.
10. Walk your dog with an empty stroller or one with some weight to it to get a feel for this and what needs to be worked on NOW.
11. Use a CD of baby noises to introduce and create a positive experience prior to the baby's arrival. <http://www.familypaws.com/books/>
12. Get the smells lotion and put it on the baby carrier, car seat etc. and the teddy you carry in the sling. Bring the same lotion with you to put the same familiar scent on the baby's clothing for the dog to be familiar with.
13. Have Dad bring home a blanket with the baby's scent on it. Although Dad will have the scent all over him. The blanket can go in the car seat, swing etc.
14. Schedule your vet visit well ahead of time to be sure to have all meds available.
15. Familiarize your dog with the person that may care for them.
16. Plan a good and safe spot for your diapers!
17. Have fun and enjoy your family!
18. Attend a Dogs & Storks workshop early on in your pregnancy!
19. Suggest a Dogs & Storks program be started in your area! ☺