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Children, Babies and Dogs

Adults manage safety. Children are never the safety system.

ABOUT CANINE UK

Canine UK starts with audit before assumptions. We look at the individual dog, their health, behaviour, environment and everyday life, alongside the needs and capabilities of their owner. Our approach puts safety, welfare, practical progress and owner understanding first.

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Plan supervision. Protect space. Review every change.

Canine UK illustration collection. Cover image is illustrative, not a behaviour diagnosis or technique demonstration.

Children, Babies and Dogs

Adults manage safety. Children are never the safety system.

Build the household setup around active adult supervision, secure separation and the individual dog and child.

Supervise or separate

Never leave a baby or young child alone with a dog. If the adult cannot actively watch and intervene, use secure separation that suits the dog, child and home.

Protect rest, food and space

Give the dog a child free resting and feeding area. Adults manage toys, food and movement. Avoid hugging, climbing, waking and face to face contact.

Notice discomfort early

Turning away, moving off, tension, freezing or growling are reasons to end contact and create space. Do not punish a warning or ask a child to test tolerance.

Review the real household

Map floor play, meals, doors, visitors and busy transitions. Review the layout as a baby begins crawling, a child becomes more mobile or routines change.

Safety comes before training

A child must never manage a risky dog. A bite, attempted bite, chasing, fixation, guarding or an unreliable separation plan needs prompt professional review. Obtain appropriate medical help after a human bite.

Four parts of a safer household plan

The plan changes as the child, dog and household change.

1. **Create separate zones**

   Choose secure child and dog areas for rest, food, play and busy household moments.

2. **Name the responsible adult**

   Agree who watches the interaction and who manages the dog during handovers.

3. **End contact early**

   Create space at the first sign of discomfort. Do not wait for a growl or snap.

4. **Review every change**

   Recheck the plan after crawling, walking, visitors, illness or changes in routine.

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A cue is not a barrier

A trained response can support the plan, but it does not replace adult supervision or secure physical separation.

Keep the context

Familiarity and a history of gentle behaviour do not remove the need for supervision. Do not stage an interaction to complete this sheet.

My family safety and supervision sheet

Record the practical setup. Keep personal details private and share only with the people responsible for safety.

Dog and household date: Who is included in this plan?

High risk moments: Food, rest, floor play, doors, visitors or busy transitions?

Secure separation: Which barrier or room is used, and who checks it?

Active supervision: Which adult is responsible during contact?

Early warning signs: What has the dog actually shown?

Immediate response: How will adults end contact and create space?

Next review: What change will trigger a new safety check?

Need help with your own dog?

This resource is a starting point, not a substitute for an individual assessment.

A Canine UK audit helps us understand your dog, your concerns and your circumstances before recommending an appropriate pathway.

Request an audit

ask@canineuk.com

canineuk.com/contact-us/