

### Don't take a chance, prepare in advance!

During the Homecoming Phase with your new baby (first three months), there is no familiarity bond between your dog and baby, and this lack of familiarity potentially increases risk to your infant. To help increase safety and move through this transition in your family dynamic, we encourage families to set up opportunities for the dog to observe the baby and new routines from a distance. Any interaction between a new baby and dog should happen under ACTIVE, AWAKE supervision where the parent is physically present and engaged and/or via success stations where there is a physical barrier in place.

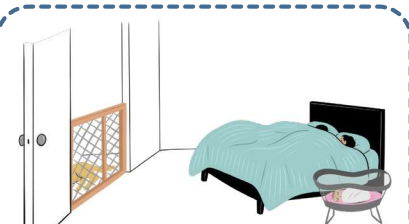
Sleep is a form of ABSENT supervision as the adult is not awake or aware of what is going on in the environment. It is imperative that your dog does not have access to your newborn baby without you awake, aware, and ACTIVELY supervising any potential interaction.



In this example, the dog is loose and responding to the baby without active, awake adult supervision. Even curious dogs can unintentionally cause harm.

Prior to baby, many families sleep with their dog loose in their bedroom or home. **Family Paws®** suggests preparing well in advance of baby's arrival to transition to a safer sleep arrangement and prevent the dog's access to your baby at those times. An abrupt change in the sleeping arrangements may result in unnecessary stress for both the dog and family, so it is ideal to transition to a safer sleep set-up proactively, prior to your baby's arrival.

As you work to transition to a safer sleeping arrangement, consider the layout of your home and the size and temperament of your dog to select the safest option for your family. Below are some examples of options to consider.



Please reach out to **familypaws.com** to find an educator who can help you proactively plan for this transition. Together we can increase safety and decrease stress for **all** family members as you ease into this new phase.