

## Bare Minimums

Do this before your puppy turns 6 months old:

1. Socialize - your puppy must meet as many new dog and human friends as possible right away. Industry Standard is to have positive interactions with at least 100 friendly people by the time they turn 6 months of age. Remember....there are no strangers, only friends you haven't made yet.  
Resources: [Socialization Classes](#), Farmers Markets, Rec Centres
2. Teach Patience - any problem behaviour you can think of is related to poor impulse control. If you can teach your puppy to control its impulses (delay gratification) then they will get in less trouble, and they will respond better to your obedience commands. There is a hormonal/physiological element to patience so it must be practiced with regular exercises.  
Resources: [Group Training Classes](#), [Private Training](#), [DIY Exercises](#)
3. Teach Bite Inhibition - your puppy needs to learn how to use their teeth appropriately. When puppies play with each other they have rules about where to bite, when to bite, and how hard to bite. Take a page from their mother's book and do a loud, startling vocal correction if they bite out of turn. Give them a moment to calm down, then return to playing gently.  
Resources: [Ian Dunbar's book - After You Get Your Puppy](#)
4. Motor Function and Coordination - Paw/Eye coordination, Tooth/Eye coordination, strength, endurance, etc. They learn this through play and other forms of movement like walking, running, turning and jumping.  
Resources: [Socialization Classes](#), agility, trick training
5. Training - Loose Leash Manners, Sit, Come, Down & Stay commands. Teach the dog some english words, and get into the habit of responding to you despite environmental distractions.  
Resources: [Private Training](#), [Group Training Classes](#)