



## **Miniature Schnauzer Puppy Socialization Checklist (8–16 Weeks)**

 **Tip:** Aim for 1–2 new experiences per day. Keep sessions short, positive, and reward-based.

Avoid placing your puppy on any public surfaces, particularly soil and grass, before it is fully immunized. Instead, carry your puppy or put it in a stroller. The water's edge at the beach, and puppy preschool can be safe places to socialize during this time.

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### **WEEK 8–9: Foundation & Familiar Faces**

Focus: **Bonding, gentle exposure at home, handling, basic noises**

- Meet household members calmly (adults, children)
- Gentle body handling: paws, ears, tail, belly
- Wear collar/harness indoors
- Short car ride (crate or seatbelt)
- Hear common household sounds: vacuum, TV, dishwasher
- Explore different textures: tile, carpet, grass, wood
- Name & recall game in quiet space
- Look at people wearing hats, glasses, hoods
- Explore backyard or secure garden
- Practice crate naps during the day

## **WEEK 10–11: Expanding the World**

Focus: **Controlled exposure to people, sounds, and objects**

- Meet new people (2–3 daily, varied ages/sizes)
  - Carry puppy near road or quiet street
  - Visit a friend’s house (dog-safe, calm environment)
  - Hear doorbell, baby crying, dogs barking (at a distance)
  - Short grooming session: brushing, nail touch, face wipes
  - Gentle introduction to leash walking in yard
  - Visit vet clinic for a “happy visit” (treats only)
  - Sit calmly near stroller, walker, or wheelchair
  - View other animals from a safe distance (cats, chickens, etc.)
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## **WEEK 12–13: Real-World Experiences Begin**

*Puppies are typically vaccinated enough for low-risk outings—check with your vet first.*

Focus: **Safe social outings, positive new environments**

- Visit pet-friendly shop or outdoor café
  - Walk on new surfaces (gravel, metal, unstable ground)
  - Short walk in park (carry if unsure of safety)
  - Ride in car to new place 2–3x per week
  - Meet new dogs (vaccinated, calm, well-mannered)
  - Experience small crowd (e.g., outdoor market)
  - Walk near joggers, cyclists, skateboards (from a distance)
  - Practice being left alone for 5–15 min in crate
  - Reward calmness when startled (bounce back training)
  - Attend a puppy play group or class (positive-only)
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## **WEEK 14–16: Building Confidence & Self-Control**

Focus: **Adaptability, impulse control, managing reactivity**

- Practice polite greetings with strangers (no jumping)
  - Calm exposure to traffic, buses, delivery trucks
  - Visit groomer for intro: scale, table, tools
  - Walk near other leashed dogs calmly
  - Exposure to crowds, kids playing, music, clapping
  - Training in distracting places (sit, come, name)
  - Watch wildlife: squirrels, birds, ducks
  - Confident walk through park or trail
  - Visit new home or yard (friend or neighbor)
  - Practice ignoring doorbell or knocking sounds
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### **Mini Schnauzer-Specific Goals by Week 16**

By the end of week 16, your Miniature Schnauzer puppy should be:

- ✓ Comfortable with being handled and groomed
- ✓ Confident in new places and with strangers
- ✓ Calm around typical household noises and movement
- ✓ Starting to manage watchdog instincts (barking/reactivity)
- ✓ Curious and eager, not fearful or defensive