döTERRA eBOOK Essential Oils & Children









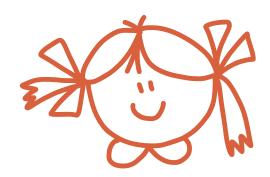
Using Essential Oils on or around Children

Once you have experienced the effective power of essential oils, incorporating oils into your lifestyle and daily routine is the next natural step. For many people, that daily routine includes children. Many parents wonder, "Are essential oils safe to use on my children?" The simple answer to this question is yes, but it is important to remember that there are certain safety guidelines and recommendations to consider when it comes to using essential oils with children. Essential oils can be safely used on or around children, and just like anything you would use with your family—topical products, hygienic products, cleaning products, etc.—special caution should be used when applying oils to children.

Yes, essential oils are safe for children

Because children are smaller and more sensitive than adults and are still developing, it is important to understand that the rules of essential oils are different for children than they are for parents.

Once you have learned the special safety guidelines required for using essential oils with your children, it is easy to help your kids reap the benefits that oils have to offer. If your child has specific health conditions or concerns, it is always wise to consult with your child's physician before using essential oils.



How do I know that essential oils are safe to use on my children?

While special precautions should be taken when using essential oils around children, parents can still be confident that it is in fact safe for children to use essential oils.

Historic use

First, parents who are new to essential oils should know that essential oils and plant parts have been used for centuries to promote wellness, and are not a new fad or trend, but a tried and true solution for many of life's everyday problems. Families in ancient Egypt used plant extracts and oils for everything from cooking and beauty treatments to embalming and religious ceremonies. For centuries, families in China have continued practices that promote wellness by using plant extracts and materials. Plant extracts and oils were a major staple in the households of ancient Rome, as plant parts were used for their fragrance and calming properties. After centuries of safe use, parents can rest easy knowing that essential oils have been proven safe and effective time and time again.









Essential oils are likely in many of the products you already use

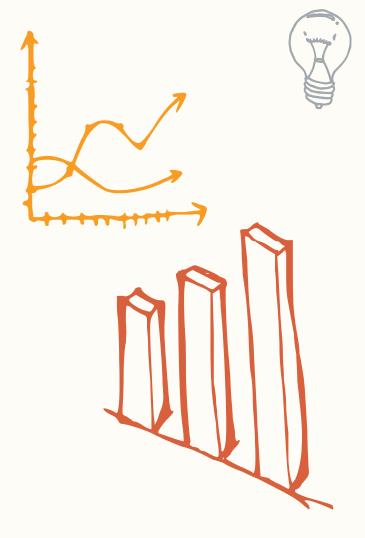
Because essential oils are naturally occurring compounds found in plants, they are a popular ingredient for many commercial products. Essential oils are often used in perfumes, soaps, candles, lotions, and skincare products to add fragrance. Due to their powerful purifying properties, essential oils are also frequently added to cleaning agents. Chances are, you most likely already have products in your home that contain essential oils. The benefit of using pure essential oils on their own is that it allows you to avoid the harmful toxins and chemicals that are often added to household products.

Because they are taken from plants, essential oils are also found in many of the foods that we regularly eat. Small amounts of essential oils can be found in many of the fruits and plants that are a part of our regular diets. This means that our bodies are already equipped to process essential oils when taken internally. Although the essential oil internal dosage for a child is far less than that of an adult, your children have most likely already been exposed to small amounts of essential oils through their diet and other household products.

Essential oils are natural, and can be safe when used properly

High quality essential oils are pure, potent, natural, and safe when used properly. As with anything we use on our bodies, there are special safety guidelines that can help us stay within the perimeters of safe use. Even seemingly harmless substances like water can be damaging to the body when used in excess amounts—and essential oils are the same way. As long as you educate yourself about the proper uses, you can safely and effectively use essential oils on yourself and around your family. Just as you wouldn't allow your child to eat something, drink something, or rub something on their skin without knowing what it is or what it does, the key to safe essential oil usage is to educate yourself. We will discuss proper application, dosage, and other safety guidelines in more detail in chapter two.





High quality oils go through testing to ensure safety

Before you use essential oils on your children (or on yourself), it is important to understand that not all essential oils are created equal. Typically, high quality essential oils go through rounds of rigorous testing to ensure that the product is safe to use. Not all companies use these testing methods, and many essential oil distributors will use synthetic fillers that alter the efficacy of the oils. It is important to use essential oils that have been carefully produced and thoroughly tested to ensure safety for you and your family. For example, doTERRA® essential oils are put through a rigorous testing process where they are checked for contaminants, potentially harmful substances, and any other components that could compromise the safety and quality of the oil. It is important to choose a high quality essential oil that has been tested and cleared for safe use before using it on your family.



Safety Guidelines

As mentioned, the key to safely and successfully using essential oils on children is observing the special safety guidelines that have been set to protect children from overexposure or sensitivity. As a parent, it is important to remember that the rules for using essential oils with children are different than those for adults. By observing specific guidelines when it comes to essential oil dosage, dilution, application, storage, and more, you can help your children safely and effectively enjoy the benefits that essential oils have to offer. Here are some basic rules to follow when using essential oils on or around children. Each of these guidelines will be covered in greater detail throughout this chapter.

Rules for using essential oils with children

- 1. Always supervise children during essential oil usage
- 2. Always give a child smaller doses of essential oils than you would give an adult
- 3. Dilute essential oils before using them on children to reduce the risk of sensitivity
- 4. Avoid sensitive areas during application
- 5. Beware of sunlight exposure after topical application of certain oils (particularly with citrus oils)

- 6. Children should not take adult supplements without consulting a healthcare professional
- 7. Always store essential oils in a safe place, out of the reach of children
- 8. Educate yourself as a parent; always read labels and manufacturer recommendations
- 9. Consult with your child's physician before using essential oils, particularly if there are health concerns







Always supervise children during essential oil usage

Perhaps the most important safety guideline when it comes to essential oils and children is to ensure that your child only uses essential oils under adult supervision. Even if your children are used to essential oils and know how to apply them, it is always best to supervise any oil application to ensure safety. Essential oils are extremely potent and powerful, and many children do not understand concepts like dosage, dilution, and sensitivity. In addition to teaching your kids about applying essential oils safely, it is important to always be present when any essential oils are being used around your children.



Dosage

Because children have a smaller body mass; have thinner, more sensitive skin; and are still developing, their dosage level of essential oils should always be smaller than adult doses.

Remember to always consult your child's physician about any specific health conditions or concerns before using essential oils on or with your child.

Because oils are so potent, you will only need a very small amount for them to be effective on your

children. When using essential oils with your kids, start with small doses—smaller than what you would use on yourself—and then give your child ample time to experience the benefits of the oil before applying more.

Dilution

Many parents have concerns about the topical use of essential oils with children because of their sensitive skin. The best way to protect a child's delicate skin when using essential oils topically is to dilute before application. Diluting an essential oil with a carrier oil like doTERRA® Fractionated Coconut Oil before applying it to your child's skin will help reduce the risk of sensitivity.



Sensitivity testing

It is usually a good idea to do a sensitivity test on your child when trying a new oil, to ensure that it does not cause any irritation. To perform a sensitivity test, simply dilute the oil that you want to use, apply it to an inconspicuous spot on your child's skin (the feet are usually the best place because that is where the skin is thickest), and observe the spot over the course of a few hours. This will give you the chance to see how your child's skin reacts to that particular oil.

Avoid sensitive areas

In addition to sensitivity testing, you can help your child avoid irritation or sensitivity when it comes to using essential oils by avoiding application in any sensitive areas. As mentioned, any application of essential oils on your children should always be supervised—with your younger children, you should be the one to apply the oils; with older children, you should always be present during application.

When applying essential oils topically on children, there are a few areas that should be avoided to help prevent sensitivity:

- Eyes
- Skin around the eyes
- Inner ears
- Broken, injured, or damaged skin
- Inner nose

All of these areas of the body tend to have more sensitive skin, and should be avoided when applying oils topically. Remember, a child's skin is even more delicate than an adult's, so application methods will always be a little different when it comes to using essential oils with children.

Dilution ratios for children:

5 drops of carrier oil for 1 drop of essential oil

Sunlight exposure

Some essential oils, particularly citrus oils, can cause sunlight sensitivity if exposed to sunlight after applying the oil on the skin. The risk for sunlight sensitivity is especially prevalent for children, because they tend to spend a lot of time outside. Before topically applying essential oils on your children, it is wise to consider first how much time your child will be spending in the sun over the next 12 hours, and second, whether or not the oil you are applying includes a caution for potential sunlight sensitivity. As mentioned, it is typically the citrus oils that present a risk for sunlight sensitivity; however, parents must always read essential oil labels to see if an oil comes with a warning about sunlight exposure. When an essential oil or essential oil product contains a sunlight sensitivity warning, it is best to avoid sunlight and UV rays for at least 12 hours after the product is applied.

Essential oil supplements

Supplements that contain essential oils can be extremely beneficial for adults; however, children should not take adult supplements unless the product has been designated as safe for children. Luckily, there are many essential oil supplements (including doTERRA® products) that are designed specifically for children. Kids can reap the benefits that essential oil supplements have to offer,



and can still take some adult supplements when they are designated as safe for the whole family. Before giving your child any supplement, read all labels or instructions to ensure that it is appropriate for children. It is always wise to consult with your healthcare provider if you have any questions about giving your child a supplement of any kind.

Essential oil storage

One of the best ways to ensure safe use of essential oils with your little ones is to practice safe storage habits—always keep your essential oils and essential oil products out of the reach of children. Kids do not understand how powerful and potent essential oils are, or how important it is to follow dosage guidelines. By keeping your essential oil collection in a place where it cannot be accessed by your children, you will help ensure their safety.

Remember, essential oils should not be stored in direct sunlight or anywhere they will

be exposed to heat, as this can damage the delicate chemical profile of the oils and even detract from their benefits. Always make sure that an essential oil diffuser is placed in a safe area where children will not be overexposed to an oil and cannot reach the diffuser. While it might seem convenient to keep essential oils out in the open, proper storage is a key component of successfully and safely using essential oils in a home with children.

Many essential oil bottles come with an orifice reducer, which allows only a small amount of oil to be released at a time. Parents will often remove this extra lid to make for easier pouring or diffusion of essential oils, but this orifice reducer can help to limit the amount of essential oils that your child can get if they do happen to find a bottle. While it is tempting to leave this lid off for convenience, it is best to make sure that the orifice reducer is on when storing your essential oils.



Educate yourself as a parent

As with anything you would give your child—food, medicine, treatments, topical products, etc.—the greatest way to safely use essential oils on or around your children is to educate yourself as a parent. If you are new to essential oils, educate yourself about how they work, best practices, and safety guidelines. Once you have learned how to properly use essential oils yourself, you'll be better equipped to share the benefits of essential oils with your entire family—including your children.

While learning about and staying up to date with safe essential oil application methods is a major part of responsibly protecting your children, it is also important that parents always carefully read warnings, labels, cautions, and distributor instructions before using essential oils on their children. By combining your essential oil knowledge with safety guidelines given by the manufacturer, you can give your child a safe, enjoyable essential oil experience.



Consult with a medical professional

Consulting with a healthcare professional before using essential oils is a safety guideline that applies to both parents and children. This rule is even more important if you or your children have specific health concerns. Each person has a different health history, and specific health conditions may change the way that you use essential oils. By consulting with your child's physician before using essential oils around your child, you can be prepared for any special conditions that may change how you use the oils in your home.

By following these general safety guidelines, and any other recommendations from the essential oil distributor, or suggestions from your physician, you can enjoy the safe use of essential oils around your children. Remember, as the parent, you set the example for your children when it comes to safe and proper use of essential oils in the home.



Uses and Applications

Now that you know that essential oils are in fact safe to use with children, and have educated yourself about the safety guidelines, it is time to learn about some of the best essential application methods for children. While children can enjoy essential oils in many of the same ways as adults (with proper dilution and dosage), there are plenty of essential oil usage methods that are unique to children. Here are some of the top essential oil uses for kids and families:

Arborvitae

Before your next family hike, dilute Arborvitae oil and apply to the wrists and ankles to repel insects naturally.



Basil

During homework time, diffuse Basil oil in your child's study area to promote a sense of focus for studying, reading, or completing other tasks that require mental clarity.



Cedarwood

Cedarwood oil holds relaxing properties that can soothe the body and mind. When your child wakes up scared in the middle of the night, dilute Cedarwood and apply to the bottoms of their feet to help them return to a peaceful feeling.



Cilantro

Dilute Cilantro oil and apply to your child's fingernails and toenails to keep them looking clean and healthy.



Cinnamon

During your child's nighttime routine, dilute one drop of Cinnamon oil in two ounces of water, and have them gargle the mixture for a cleansing mouth rinse.



Clary Sage

Before your child goes to bed, apply one drop of Clary Sage oil to their pillowcase to help them prepare for a restful night of sleep.



Clove

Clove oil holds cleansing properties that are particularly useful for oral hygiene. After your child's six-month cleaning at the dentist, add one drop of Clove to their toothpaste to help maintain a clean mouth.



Coriander

The fresh, green aroma of Coriander oil makes it both relaxing and stimulating. When your child is working on homework or an important project, diffuse Coriander in an essential oil diffuser nearby.



Eucalyptus

To promote feelings of clear breathing and open airways for your child, dilute Eucalyptus oil and apply it topically to your child's chest. As your child breathes deeply, the oil will provide an invigorating vapor.



Ginger

During a long car ride or road trip, diffuse Ginger oil in the car, or place a drop of Ginger in your child's palm and have them inhale the aroma.



Grapefruit

If you have a teenager who is struggling with skin imperfections, add a drop of Grapefruit oil to their facial cleanser or moisturizer to help improve the appearance of blemishes. (Avoid sunlight or UV rays for up to 12 hours after application.)



Lavender

Add Lavender oil to your child's bath, or dilute and massage on your little one's abdomen to promote calming and soothing feelings.



Lemon

If your child craves sugary juices or sodas, add a drop of Lemon oil in a glass of water for a fresh, flavorful beverage. (This can also be done with Lime, Grapefruit, Wild Orange, and other essential oils).



Marioram

Harness the calming properties of Marjoram by applying diluted Marjoram oil to a fussy child's feet before their nap.



Melaleuca

To help with occasional skin irritations, dilute Melaleuca oil and apply to your child's affected areas.



Peppermint

When your child feels overheated, add a drop of Peppermint oil to a cold water compress, or to a cold foot bath to help them cool down.



Sandalwood

Help promote relaxation and reduce stress by adding one drop of Sandalwood oil (Indian or Hawaiian) to your child's evening bath.



Votivor

When your child is having a rough day, dilute Vetiver oil and apply to the child's neck and bottom of the feet to help promote calm feelings.



Wintergreen

Whether your child plays soccer, football, lacrosse, hockey, or any other sport, you can keep the unpleasant odor of their gear at bay by putting a few drops of Wintergreen oil on a cotton ball and placing it in their practice bag.

Aromatic use

In addition to the essential oil uses designed for children listed above, one of the simplest and safest ways to help your children experience the benefits of essential oils is through aromatic use. By diffusing essential oils in your home, you can create an invigorating, calming, relaxing, or uplifting atmosphere for your children. Diffusing essential oils can also help purify the air in your home when you want to dispel unwanted odors or produce a clean, fresh scent. Essential oil diffusion is a simple way for the entire family to experience the powerful benefits of essential oils, without worrying about dosage or dilution.





Getting Your Children to Use Essential Oils

It is no secret that children can be picky. Whether your child is particular when it comes to tastes, smells, or even their routine, this can make it difficult for them to enjoy the benefits of essential oils in the same way that adults do. Luckily, there are a few fun ways to get your children to enjoy essential oils, no matter their personal preferences.

Cooking with essential oils

If your child is selective when it comes to taste, texture, or smells, you can always add essential oils to their favorite foods, beverages, and treats to help them experience the benefits of certain oils. Essential oils can help to add flavor to smoothies, baked goods, breakfast foods, and more—and most of the time, your child won't even notice the difference.

Smoothies

If your child likes drinking smoothies or slushies, you can simply add a drop of an essential oil that has been approved for internal use into their favorite blended beverage.

Baked goods

Essential oils can help add extra flavor to your child's favorite cookie, brownie, or cupcake recipe.

Dips, salsas, and sauces

If your kids like to enjoy hummus, salsa, or any other kind of dip with their after-school snacks, you can easily add a drop of essential oil to the mix and give their favorite dipping sauce some extra flavor.



This recipe for black bean brownies with Peppermint oil is the perfect example of a fun way to use essential oils when cooking for or with your children:

doTERRA® Peppermint Black Bean Brownies

Ingredients

1 (15 ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed

2 large eggs

1/4 cup cocoa powder

2/3 cup honey

1/3 cup coconut oil

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Pinch of salt

4 drops Peppermint essential oil

3/4 cup chocolate chips, divided

Directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 2. Place all ingredients, except for chocolate chips, in blender or food processor and blend until smooth.
- 3. Pour batter into large bowl and stir in ½ cup chocolate chips.
- 4. Pour into greased 8x8-inch pan and top with ¼ cup chocolate chips.
- 5. Bake 30–35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

For a simple, healthy breakfast, try making this
Wild Tropical Fruit smoothie for your kids in the morning:



Ingredients

5 drops Wild Orange oil 1 cup frozen strawberries 1 cup frozen mango 1 1/2 cup pineapple juice

Directions

- 1. Mix all ingredients in a blender.
- 2. Pour and enjoy.







Essential oil DIYs

Another way to use essential oils with your children is by getting creative with essential oil do-it-yourself projects at home. You can use essential oils for crafts, to create aromatic jewelry, during bath time, and more.

These essential oil confetti bath bombs provide a fun way for your children to enjoy the benefits of essential oils during bath time:

doTERRA® Essential Oil Confetti Bath Bombs

Ingredients

1 cup baking soda ½ cup cornstarch 1 cup citric acid

½ cup dōTERRA Fractionated Coconut Oil 10 drops of your essential oil of choice Sprinkles

Food coloring Silicone mold

Directions

- Place citric acid, baking soda, cornstarch, and Fractionated Coconut Oil into bowl.
 (Note: citric acid can be found in most supermarkets in the canning section.)
- Add your essential oil of choice. Oils like Lavender, Wild Orange, Clary Sage, and doTERRA blends like Citrus Bliss® or doTERRA Serenity® work well.

- 3. Mix well until soft dough is formed. It should have the consistency of mildly-damp sand and should hold together when pressed. If mixture is too wet, add baking soda and cornstarch.
- 4. Add food coloring and mix until color is evenly distributed.
- 5. Press mixture firmly into silicone mold and sprinkle the top with your favorite party sprinkles. Let dry for 24 hours before removing from mold. (If you don't have a silicone mold, cupcake liners will also work).
- 6. Bath bombs are ready to use! Simply drop in tub full of water and allow to dissolve completely.



Make playtime even more fun with this aromatherapy play dough:

Aromatherapy Play Dough

Ingredients

2 cups flour

2 cups colored water

1 cun salt

1 tablespoon olive oi

1 teaspoon cream of tartar

5 drops essential oils



Directions

- 1. Combine all ingredients, except for essential oils, in a large saucepan and stir until combined.
- 2. Once combined, put over medium heat. Using a spatula continue to stir ingredients together until it forms a ball. (Note: don't overcook as it will lead to dry play dough.)
- 3 Remove from heat and cool on parchment paper
- 4. Once cool, add five drops of your favorite essential oil and knead until thoroughly combined.
- You're done! Store in an air-tight container in the fridge for months of fun.



Essential Oils and Pregnancy

People often ask, "Is it safe to use essential oils during pregnancy?" While we rely on the history of safe use to decide which oils can be used during pregnancy, there are some important guidelines to consider before using oils during pregnancy. Due to the potent, powerful nature of essential oils, you should always consider your personal health status before using oils in any capacity—this is especially true during pregnancy.

Just as it is wise to modify essential oil use for children, modifications must be made when using essential oils during pregnancy, breastfeeding, or during other special circumstances.

Using essential oils during pregnancy and breastfeeding

Essential oils can be useful for creating a healthy body, supporting the immune system, soothing feelings of discomfort, and more.* Because of these powerful benefits, essential oils are useful and effective during every phase of life—even during pregnancy. By following proper safety guidelines, you can feel confident in using essential oils during pregnancy.

During pregnancy, the body goes through a wide variety of changes. These changes often bring feelings of discomfort and sensitivity throughout the body. While every pregnancy is a little different, the goal is to support the healthy, proper function of the entire body. Along with good nutrition and regular exercise, essential oils can be used during pregnancy to help support a healthy body and healthy baby.



Is it safe to use essential oils during pregnancy?

Due to the ethical issue of testing expecting mothers and their fetuses, there are limited clinical studies addressing the safety of essential oils during pregnancy. However, we can rely on the history of safe use to determine which essential oils to use during pregnancy.

It is important to remember that during pregnancy, it is not uncommon for a woman to be sensitive to essential oils. Due to these sensitivities and all of the changes that occur in the body when pregnant, it is important to consult with your doctor before using essential oils during pregnancy.











Talking to your doctor about using essential oils while pregnant

Even if you've used essential oils before without incident, you should still inform your doctor of any essential oils you plan to use during pregnancy and when breastfeeding. Your doctor knows you, your specific health concerns, and the status of your pregnancy, and therefore, should be aware of any and all essential oil products, including cosmetics and supplements, you plan to use during pregnancy.

Because each pregnancy is different, your doctor is the

best resource for making
a treatment plan and
determining which essential
oils are best to use during
pregnancy for each individual.
Your doctor can give you a
good idea of what to avoid
during pregnancy, and any
other safety measures you
should take based on your



personal health and the health of your growing baby.



Other safety guidelines for using essential oils when pregnant

As mentioned, it is not uncommon for pregnant women to experience increased sensitivity to essential oils. You might consider adapting the amount of oil you use or application methods when using essential oils during pregnancy to help with any sensitivities that arise.

It is also important to remember that not all essential oils are created equal. It is crucial that you use pure essential oils during pregnancy—you will want oils that are free of toxins and contaminants. When used appropriately, pure, high-quality essential oils are a safe option during pregnancy.

Which essential oils are safe to use during pregnancy?

Once you've talked with your doctor, you can start to safely use essential oils during pregnancy. Here are a few ways that essential oils can be used during pregnancy:



Essential oils for occasional morning sickness and nausea

- Peppermint oil and Cardamom oil can alleviate occasional stomach upset when taken in veggie capsules or added to water.*
- Ginger oil may help reduce occasional nausea when taken internally.*
- Spearmint oil offers many of the same benefits as Peppermint oil, but serves as a milder option to help with sensitivity or stomach upset that occurs during pregnancy.*
- The DigestZen® Digestive Blend provides a healthy, natural way to soothe an upset stomach.*



Essential oils for occasional heartburn

When you experience heartburn during pregnancy, it can be helpful to use products that balance acid levels in the stomach. **DigestTab® Chewable Tablets** are infused with the DigestZen tummy tamer blend, which delivers digestion-supportive oils, and the acid-neutralizing benefits of calcium carbonate.* Calcium carbonate helps maintain stomach acid balance to help you deal with the discomfort that comes from heartburn and indigestion.*



Essential oils for pregnancy back discomfort

Massaging soothing essential oil blends on the lower back can be helpful when experiencing back discomfort.

When discomfort in the legs or feet arise, rubbing the **AromaTouch® Massage Blend** on the lower extremities can help these problem areas.



Essential oils for a better sleeping environment

Good sleep and rest are paramount during pregnancy. Diffusing calming essential oils like **Clary Sage**, **Dill**, **Lavender**, and **Sandalwood** promote feelings of calmness and can create an ideal atmosphere for achieving a good night of rest. In addition to diffusion and aromatic use, these oils can also be applied topically or used internally when appropriate to promote quality sleep.

For restful sleep during pregnancy, try the following suggestions:

- Place a few drops of essential oil on your blankets or pillows at nighttime.
- Diffuse calming essential oils for 30 minutes before going to bed.
- Add one to two drops of Lavender oil to a cup of hot water for a relaxing tea that can help you unwind at bedtime.



Essential oils for better skin during pregnancy

A pregnant woman's body is ever changing, and this includes changes in the skin. As the body works to keep up with a growing fetus, the skin can often become stretched and taut. Another challenge that many women experience during pregnancy is an increase in oil production of the skin. Thankfully, many essential oils can help to reduce the appearance of oily skin, reduce the appearance of blemishes, and beautify the skin.

Incorporate these oils into your skincare routine during pregnancy:

- Frankincense oil
- Grapefruit oil
- Helichrysum oil

Remember to avoid direct sunlight or UV rays for at least 12 hours after using citrus oils on the skin.



Essential oils for emotional support during pregnancy

In addition to all of the changes occurring in the body during pregnancy, the changes in a woman's hormones can cause heightened emotions. To manage mood during pregnancy, consider using any of the essential oils that produce a calm, relaxed atmosphere. There are many oils that can help you deal with the wide range of emotions that you'll encounter throughout your pregnancy.

Here are some of the best essential oils for emotional health during pregnancy:

- Diffuse Melissa oil at night or rub it on the forehead, shoulders, or chest to lessen stress and promote emotional well-being.
- Inhale Sandalwood oil directly from palms or diffuse to lessen tension and balance emotions.
- Apply Ylang Ylang oil to the back of the neck for a calming, uplifting effect.

Use these oils and any of your favorite calming, soothing, or uplifting oils to help manage your mood during the emotionally taxing months of pregnancy.



Using essential oils during labor and delivery

Because essential oils promote uplifting and calming feelings, they can be extremely useful during labor and delivery when stress, anxious feelings, and emotions are running high. Research shows that women who use essential oils during labor and delivery have reported less anxious feelings and felt more positive about their experience, when compared to women who did not use essential oils.

- Use Black Pepper and Basil oil diluted with Fractionated Coconut Oil on the lower back to ease discomfort during labor.
- The combination of dotERRA Balance® and Wild Orange oil make a good blend, especially during delivery when you want to balance emotions and dispel anxious feelings.
- Try using the **AromaTouch**® blend topically for comforting and relaxing effects. This blend is especially helpful for soothing areas of tension and stress when applied to the back and shoulders.
- Clary Sage oil can be used to reduce tension, which is helpful for contractions. Consider blending
 Clary Sage with other calming essential oils like Lavender oil or Geranium oil.



Is it safe to use essential oils when breastfeeding?

In addition to concerns about essential oils and pregnancy, many people ask, "Is it safe to use essential oils while breastfeeding?" While the body changes significantly during pregnancy, these changes don't end with the birth of the baby—your body will continue to change as you adapt to post-partum life. Just as you should discuss the use of essential oils with your doctor before using them for pregnancy, you'll also want to consult with your physician when you begin nursing.

Again, your doctor is the best resource for advice when it comes to your body, your baby, and any special concerns you might have. Just as you would check with your doctor before using any new products when breastfeeding, it is important to discuss your essential oil use with your healthcare professional when you become a nursing mother.

Like pregnancy, breastfeeding places a lot of demands on a mother's body. When nursing, the goal is to maintain a strong and healthy body that will support a healthy newborn. With the help of your doctor, you can use essential oils and essential oil products that support healthy function of the whole body.

There are countless ways for the entire family to enjoy the benefits of essential oils. Once you educate yourself as a parent about the best practices and important safety guidelines, you can help promote wellness in your family by incorporating the use of essential oils into your family's daily routine and lifestyle. No matter how you choose to use essential oils, always remember to be an example of safe, responsible use so that your children can come to love essential oils and benefit from them as much as possible.