

Home workout guide

A 6 week guide to feel fitter and stronger everyday

Weeks 13-24 postpartum



Welcome! Meet Your Coach

Hi! I'm Lydia, a Level 3 Qualified Personal Trainer and Level 3 Sports Massage Therapist with specialised expertise in pre and post-natal fitness. I understand the physical and emotional challenges that come with postpartum recovery, and I am here to help you regain your strength and confidence safely.

This online training programme focuses on restoring core function, rebuilding strength, and enhancing overall well-being. Whether you're looking to increase energy levels, rebuild your strength, or feel confident in your body again, I'm here to guide you every step of the way.

Over the next 6 weeks my goal is to empower you to move from rehab & initial postpartum workouts to a simple, home based programme, that you can follow to feel fitter and stronger every day- whatever that looks like for you!

I'll start by walking you through the science of the programme, how we can set our intention to show up in whatever way is right for you TODAY and then we'll get into our warm up!

Remember, this is your journey and your pace.
You might be joining this programme at 13 weeks or 30 weeks postpartum. Focus on what feels right for you and your body.



Mindset: show up for yourself

The postpartum journey is unique for everyone. Whether you're managing sleepless nights, feeding challenges, or nap schedules, every step you take toward movement is a win. Be kind to yourself, listen to your body, and do what you can without pressure or guilt. Small, consistent efforts will lead to big progress over time.

Mindset is everything, it's your guiding voice on this journey and the centre point of living a healthy lifestyle. So, how do you rebuild your mindset? We start by working out our 'why':

Why do you want to show up?

Why do you want to achieve this goal?

Before getting started with these workouts we suggest spending 10 minutes jotting down answers to these questions in a notebook and referring back to it as a reminder on those days that feel hard.

We also encourage you to focus your energy on rebuilding your relationship with your body. Although it may not feel like yours at the moment or look like it used to, your body has just done something truly amazing- focus your workout goals on coming from a place of love and respect for your body.

Your training plan explained

This program is designed to progressively build strength, and boost your fitness without overwhelming your body. It includes a mix of upper body, lower body, and full-body workouts, all tailored to postpartum recovery needs:

- Emphasis on Core & Pelvic Floor: Strengthening these areas safely is crucial before adding heavy weights.
- **Gradual Progression**: Exercises will increase in intensity as you regain strength.
- **Time-Efficient:** Workouts are designed to be completed in under an hour, making them manageable for busy mums.

Mind-Muscle Connection

A key focus of this program is developing a strong mind-muscle connection. This means being intentional with movements, feeling the correct muscles activate, and engaging the core and pelvic floor in every movement to prevent injury and build strength effectively.

Mind- muscle connection is particularly prevalent during isolation exercises where you are looking to isolate and work single muscle groups. It's important to be in tune with your body, how it feels, what feels right and what doesn't.

Your training plan explained

Recovery & Rehab: The Foundation of Strength

Your body is still healing, so rest and recovery are just as important as training. Key aspects include:

- Pelvic Floor & Core Work: Prioritise breathing techniques and controlled movements. Revisit my breathwork series to rebuild the core if you need to.
- Stretching & Mobility: Reduce tension and improve range of motion. Revisit my stretch circuit if you need to.
- Adequate Rest: Listen to your body and take extra rest days if needed.

Training Split & Importance of Rest

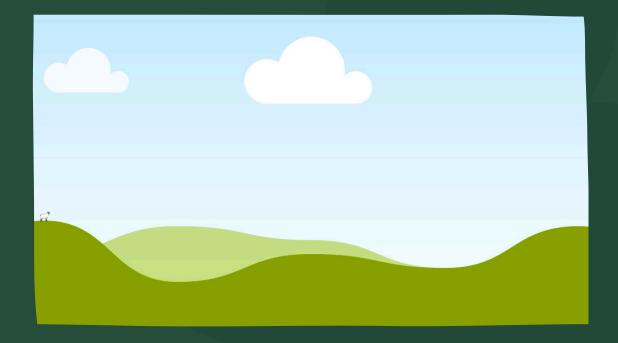
This programme follows a balanced training split, alternating between upper, lower and full-body workouts to allow proper recovery:

- 3x workouts per week
- Rest days are often overlooked but they're imperative to a successful training plan- your muscles don't grow when you're training them, but when you're resting them.
- Ensure you stay hydrated and fuel your body with the right nutrients. Check out the recipes and meal plan guides in the members hub for inspiration.
- Active recovery (e.g., walking, stretching, or yoga) is encouraged. Check out the flow series from Life.Postpartums yoga teacher Jenny here.
- Weights should be increased each week, as the weeks progress you can also take reps higher as well but I recommend keeping within hypertrophy ranges of 8-10 reps per set.

Warm up

Complete this warm up before every workout:

- 5-10 min cardio (e.g., walking/jogging, cycling, or rowing)
- **Dynamic stretches:** Arm circles, hip openers, and spinal rotations
- Glute and core activation exercises (e.g., glute bridges, pelvic tilts, and dead bugs- refer to the reintroduction to exercise series for details on form if you need to)
- Incorporate your breathwork into each warm up. Watch the video how to here- we are focusing on 360 breath as you inhale into the ribs and exhale as you draw them down.



Let's get into the programme!

Full Body

Bodyweight thruster

Equipment needed: dumbbell or substitute





REST













kneeling robot press up



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Side plank

SETS

REPS

REST



30-60s









lying hamstring curl (dumbbell between feet)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower Body

Banded good morning

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band



Wall sit hold

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

1

30s





1 bodyweight squat, 1 pulse (slow eccentric movement)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s





Double calf raises

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

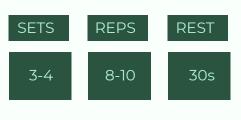


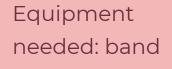




Banded bicep curls

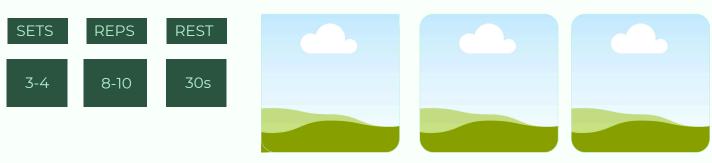
Upper Body



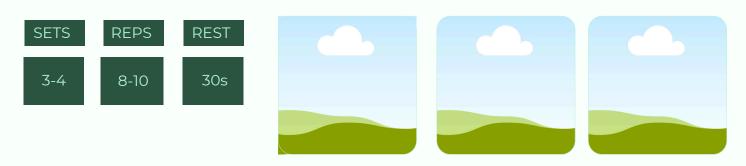




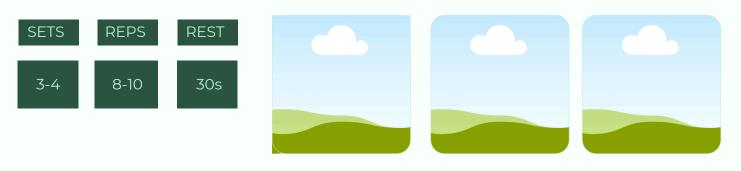
Banded shoulder press



Banded single arm row



Lying single arm banded chest press



Full Body

Incline press ups

Equipment needed: dumbbell or substitute



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Weighted or banded deadbugs



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Dumbbell ground to overhead (moderate weight, single arm)

SETS

REPS

REST

1

30-60s









Goblet squat pulses (light to moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower Body

Split squat (slow eccentric)

SETS

REPS

REST

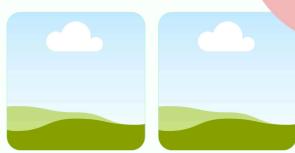
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Staggered stance RDL (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

1

30s





Bodyweight Lateral lunges

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Bodyweight or light weight reverse lunge to knee drive

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper Body

Lying skull crusher (one heavy or two light dumbbells)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed:



Lying chest flies (light dumbbell)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Single arm Arnold press (light to moderate dumbbell)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Single arm push press (light to moderate dumbbell)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Full Body

Weighted pull throughs in hover position (+ optional shoulder taps)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed:



Single arm hang snatch (moderate to heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

1

30s







Goblet lunges (moderate to heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Farmers carry

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower Body

Side plank leg lifts (knees stacked and lifting the top leg)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: optional dumbbell





Feet elevated glute bridge

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

1

30s







Wall RDLs single leg

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Weighted or none weighted hip thrusts

SETS

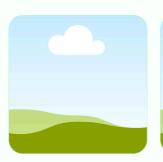
REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper Body

Double dumbbell hammer curls (slow eccentric, light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

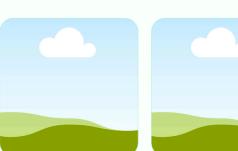
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Banded lat pull downs

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Dumbbell around the worlds

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Double dumbbell reverse flies (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Full Body

Sumo deadlift to high pull (moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

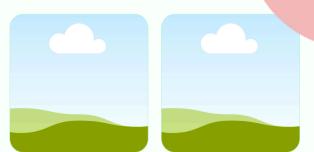
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: dumbbell



Thrusters

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Step ups into reverse lunge

(step up left side +left side lunge then step up right side + right side lunge = 1 rep)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Single arm dumbbell clean and press (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower Body

Good morning (moderate-heavy weight or slow eccentric)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell





Split squats

(moderate- heavy weight or slow eccentric)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Single leg glute bridge

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Lying banded single leg hamstring curl

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper Body

Hammer curl to strict press (light- moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

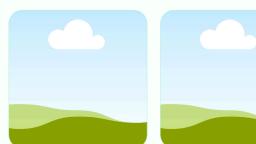
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Banded high pulls

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Bench/sofa/chair supported wide dumbbell row (moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Robot press ups (knees/full plank)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper Body

Hammer curl to strict press (light- moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10





Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Banded high pulls

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Bench/sofa/chair supported wide dumbbell row (moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Robot press ups (knees/full plank)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper Body

Hammer curl to strict press (light- moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Banded high pulls

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Bench/sofa/chair supported wide dumbbell row (moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Robot press ups (knees/full plank)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Full Body

Mountain climbers

Equipment needed: dumbbell



3-4













Strict press

(double or single arm- moderate weight)



REPS



3-4











Plank hold



REPS



3-4

45s









Staggered stance rotational RDLs

SETS

REPS

REST



8-10







Lower Body

Bodyweight sumo deadlift

Equipment needed: dumbbell



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Feet elevated cyclist goblet squat

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Deadlift

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper Body

Double dumbbell bench floor press (moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

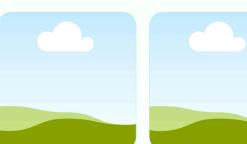
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Tricep dips

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Double dumbbell push press (moderate weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Single arm banded pull down

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Full Body

Inch worms

Equipment needed: dumbbell



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Dumbbell swings (heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Hand release press ups

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







1/2 kneeling wood chop (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower Body

Single leg hip thrusts

Equipment needed:



















Squat + pause at bottom (slow eccentric, moderate weight)



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Single leg RDLs (add weight if want more)



REPS



3-4

8-10









Single leg step ups

(drive up off the foot on the step/chair- add weight if want more)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper Body

Seated wide strict press (double or single arm, light to moderate weight)

SETS

3-4



8-10



30s



Equipment needed: dumbbell



Renegade row (knees down or full plank)

SETS















Dumbbell bent over row (weighted or single arm and bench supported)

SETS





3-4











Incline push ups

SETS

REPS

REST



8-10







Full body

1/2 burpees

Equipment needed: dumbbell



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Weighted wall-sit hold (Medium or heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s

30s







Walking farmers lunges (use a heavy weight in each hand

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Plank hold

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s







Lower body

Single leg, foot elevated glute bridge

Equipment needed:



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Weighted bird-dog fans (Light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Single leg hip thrusts ((Medium to heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Double dumbell, heel elevated squat (medium to heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper body

Double alternating floorpress (keep one weight above chest)

SETS

REPS

REST

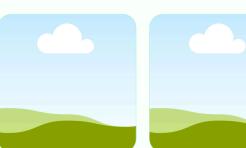
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Banded face pulls

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Double dumbbell deficit press ups

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Bicep curls (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15







Full body

Weighted deadbugs (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

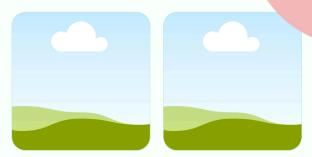
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: dumbbell



Rainbow taps & tricep press up

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Bird dog hold

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s

30s







Weighted walk or jog (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

60s







Lower body

Single leg Romanian deadlift (RDL) medium to heavy weight

SETS

REPS

REST

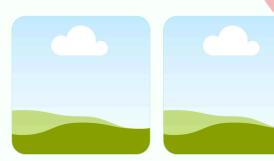
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed:



Front foot elevated split squat

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Curtsey lunge (light to medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Lateral step overs

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper body

Lateral raise 2 x light weights

SETS

REPS

REST

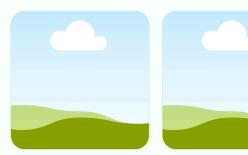
3-4

12-15

30s



Equipment needed: dumbbell



Shoulder press (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Narrow press (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Palms up row (heavy weoght)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Full body

Burpees

Equipment needed: dumbbell



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Standing oblique crunches

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Reverse lunge to dumbbell bicep curl (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Side plank hold

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower body

Weighted squat & pulse (medium to heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

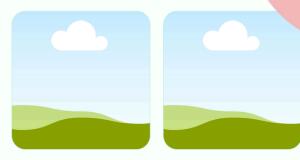
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed:



Staggered stance RDL (2 x medium weights)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Double dumbbell thruster (medium to heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Weighted wall sit hold (heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s







Upper body

Single weight tricep press (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed:



L-sit strict press (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Lying chest fly's (2 x light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15

30s







Single arm floor press (opposite leg knee above hip and foot off the floor)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s







Equipment needed: band

Full body

Lunge hold + banded arrow pull

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s





Banded clam shell dips (in side plank)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Lying side banded leg lifts

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15

30s







Banded bridge hold marches (hold weight above chest to scale up)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s







Lower body

Banded squat to step out

Equipment needed: band and dumbbell







30s











Standing banded reverse kicks



REPS

REST

3-4











Banded duck walks

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15

30s







Single leg sit to stand (light weight & add a jump to scale up)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s







Upper body

Double dumbbell man maker (light to medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

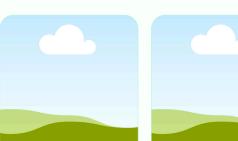
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: band and dumbbell



Double dumbbell Arnold press (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Seated two banded row

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15

30s







Lunge hold + banded tricep kick backs

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s







Full body

Feet elevated Russian twists (add weight to scale up)

SETS

REPS

REST

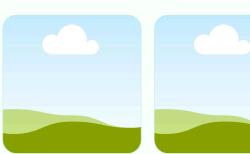
3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed:



Prioner get up to lateral jump

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s





4-point hover hold

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s

30s







Double dumbbell clean & press (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower body

Dumbbell suitcase squat to calf raise (2 x medium weight)

SETS



REST

3-4





Equipment needed: band and dumbbell





Dumbbell rear foot elevated split squat (2 x medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Side lying adductor circles

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s

30s







Banded lateral leg lifts

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Upper body

Pilates press ups

Equipment needed: dumbbell



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Wide weighted shoulder press)2 x medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Tricep pulses (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15









Weighted dip to lateral press (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Full body

Burpee to step up/jump

Equipment needed: dumbbell



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









V sit-ups

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Dumbbell squat (heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Standing front punches (2 x light weights)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10







Lower body

Lateral step overs (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s



Equipment needed: dumbbell



Dumbbell thrusters (2 x medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Single arm overhead lunges (medium weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

8-10

30s







Weighted wall-sit hold (heavy weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

45s







Upper body

Offset press ups

Equipment needed: dumbbell



REPS

REST

3-4

8-10









Bicep curl to press (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15

30s







Front raise to lateral lower (2 x light weights)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

12-15

30s







Single arm lateral raise (light weight)

SETS

REPS

REST

3-4

10-12







Disclaimer

This programme is intended for general guidance and should not replace medical advice. Always consult your doctor or a qualified healthcare provider before starting any postpartum fitness program.

By partaking in the Life Postpartum Gym guide, you acknowledge that there is always an element of risk involved with any physical exercise and to do so is solely at your own risk. In the event that you should feel discomfort or pain during an exercise you should stop immediately and seek medical assistance as required.

You agree that neither Lydia Mellor, nor Life Postpartum Limited, are liable to you and/or any third party for or in connection with: losses not caused by our breach of these terms and conditions; or any consequential or incidental losses which are a side effect of the main loss or damage and not reasonably foreseeable by us and you at the time of entering into these terms and conditions.

Life Postpartum Limited does not exclude or limit in any way its liability for a breach of the terms implied by applicable consumer protection legislation in England and Wales (to the extent they cannot be excluded by law). Neither Lydia Mellor, nor Life Postpartum Limited, is liable for any injury, loss, claim, damage or any special, exemplary, punitive, indirect or consequential damages of any kind, which arises out of or is in any way connected with your participation in any exercises.