

Human Development: Prenatal to Toddler (19052)

Curriculum Map 2026
Mrs. Jessica DeVries
Semester Course | 18 Weeks
Schedule: 5 days/week, 50 minutes
Career Cluster: Human Services

Human Development: Prenatal to Toddler examines growth and development from conception through age three. Students explore prenatal development, childbirth, infant and toddler development, health and safety, guidance strategies, and caregiver responsibilities while exploring careers in early childhood and human services.

Course Units & Learning Overview

Unit	Time	Standards	Focus	Key Skills Developed	Major Assessments
Introduction to Human Development & Careers	1 week	HDPT 1	Human development principles & careers	Professional awareness, developmental understanding	Career reflection & development timeline
Principles of Human Development	2 weeks	HDPT 1	Domains & influences on development	Developmental analysis & observation	Development domains chart
Prenatal Development	2 weeks	HDPT 2.1	Stages of prenatal growth	Development tracking & health awareness	Prenatal timeline project
Prenatal Health & Wellness	2 weeks	HDPT 2.2	Nutrition, teratogens & maternal health	Risk identification & prevention	Prenatal health brochure
Pregnancy & Childbirth	2 weeks	HDPT 2.3	Labor, delivery & childbirth options	Decision-making & medical awareness	Birth plan comparison
Newborn Care & Safety	2 weeks	HDPT 3.1	Newborn needs & safety practices	Infant care & safety evaluation	Newborn care simulation
Infant Development	2 weeks	HDPT 3.2	Physical, cognitive & emotional growth	Developmental milestone tracking	Infant milestone chart

Unit	Time	Standards	Focus	Key Skills Developed	Major Assessments
Attachment & Emotional Development	2 weeks	HDPT 3.3	Bonding & emotional security	Caregiver response & relationship building	Attachment scenario analysis
Toddler Development & Guidance	2 weeks	HDPT 4.1	Development & behavior guidance	Guidance strategies & communication	Guidance strategy plan
Learning Through Play & Safe Environments	1 week	HDPT 4.2	Developmentally appropriate play	Activity design & safety evaluation	Toddler learning activity design
Final Development Project	2 weeks	HDPT 4	Development application & caregiving skills	Development planning & presentation	Child development portfolio & presentation

Skills Students Will Develop

- Understanding stages of early human development
- Recognizing developmental milestones
- Evaluating health and safety practices
- Applying guidance and caregiving strategies
- Observing and analyzing behavior and growth
- Communicating developmental needs professionally

Career & Real-World Connections

Students explore careers and professional expectations through:

- FCCLA Early Childhood Education STAR Event opportunities
- Guest speakers from childcare or health fields
- Real-world caregiving scenarios and decision making
- Professional communication and observation skills

Standards Alignment

This course aligns with South Dakota Human Development standards:

- **HDPT 1** — Principles of Human Development & Careers
- **HDPT 2** — Prenatal Development & Childbirth

- **HDPT 3** — Infant Development & Care
- **HDPT 4** — Toddler Development & Guidance

Prior Knowledge Needed

No prior knowledge is required. Before each unit, students share what they believe the topic will cover. Instruction is adjusted to ensure all students understand the content regardless of prior experience.

Assessment Framework

Formative

- guided notes & reflections
- worksheets & quizzes
- class discussions & observations

Summative

- prenatal timeline
- infant milestone chart
- guidance strategy project
- final presentation

Performance-Based

- newborn care simulation
- attachment response scenarios
- toddler activity design
- child development portfolio

Differentiation & Student Support

Support Strategies

- visual aids & modeling
- guided notes & vocabulary supports
- step-by-step developmental charts

- small group instruction

Enrichment

- child development research topics
- career interviews & observations
- FCCLA STAR Event participation
- advanced developmental analysis

Classroom Management and Environment

The classroom is arranged to support collaboration, discussion, and hands-on simulations. The learning environment is structured, supportive, and respectful to ensure sensitive topics are discussed appropriately.

Cross-Curricular Connections

- Science: human growth & development
- Health: prenatal care & safety practices
- ELA: observation writing & presentations
- Career Readiness: communication & professionalism

Work-Based Learning & CTSO Integration

Recommended by SD DOE:

- FCCLA Early Childhood Education STAR Event
- Job shadow or virtual childcare tour
- Guest speaker from healthcare or childcare field
- Observation of early childhood environments (virtual or in-person)

Resources

Primary Text

- *The Developing Child* — Goodheart-Willcox

Professional Organizations

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Zero to Three

Career Exploration

- SDMyLife
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — Childcare Workers & Preschool Teachers