

Lifespan Connections — 19255

Curriculum Map 2026

Mrs. Jessica DeVries

Semester Course | 18 Weeks

Schedule: 5 days/week, 50 minutes

Career Cluster: Human Services

Course Description:

Lifespan Connections examines the dynamics of family, work, and other significant relationships. Students develop communication and conflict-management skills, analyze healthy and unhealthy relationships, explore relationship needs throughout different stages of life, and examine the connection between family, community, and workplace roles.

Course Units & Learning Overview

Unit	Time	SD Standards	Focus	Key Skills Developed	Major Assessment
1. Foundations of Interpersonal Relationships	2 weeks	LC 1.1, LC 1.4	Relationship types, influences & dynamics	Relationship awareness & communication foundations	Relationship analysis & reflection
2. Communication & Conflict Management	2 weeks	LC 1.1, LC 1.2	Positive communication, listening & conflict	Communication & conflict-management skills	Communication role-play & conflict scenario
3. Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships	2 weeks	LC 1.4, LC 3.1, LC 3.2	Relationship influences, lifestyle choices & warning signs	Relationship evaluation & healthy decision-making	Healthy/unhealthy relationship case study
4. Children & Adolescent Relationships	2 weeks	LC 2.1, LC 3.2	Relationship needs, strategies & resources for youth	Support strategies & resource identification	Youth relationship/resource scenario
5. Adult Relationships	2 weeks	LC 2.2, LC 3.1	Adult relationship needs, transitions & lifestyle choices	Adult relationship analysis & resource use	Adult relationship case study
6. Family Diversity & Society	2 weeks	LC 1.3, LC 1.4	Family perspectives, needs, characteristics & social influences	Perspective-taking & analysis of family dynamics	Family perspectives analysis
7. Relationships in Later Life	2 weeks	LC 2.3, LC 3.1	Aging, independence, caregiving & community resources	Supporting older adults & identifying resources	Older-adult interview/resource project

Unit	Time	SD Standards	Focus	Key Skills Developed	Major Assessment
8. Family, Community & Workplace Roles	2 weeks	LC 4.1, LC 4.2	Transferable skills, role demands, stress & work-life balance	Transferable skills & stress management	Work-life balance/role-management plan
9. Final Lifespan Connections Portfolio	2 weeks	LC 1–LC 4	Application of course concepts across the lifespan	Synthesis, reflection & presentation	Lifespan portfolio & presentation

Skills Students Will Develop

- Positive communication and active listening
- Conflict prevention and management
- Recognition of healthy and unhealthy relationship characteristics
- Analysis of internal and external influences on relationships
- Strategies for supporting children, adolescents, adults, and older adults
- Identification and use of community resources
- Understanding diverse individual and family perspectives
- Transferable skills for family, community, and workplace roles
- Stress management and work-life balance
- Decision-making related to relationships and lifestyle choices

Career & Real-World Connections

Students explore relationships and Human Services concepts through:

- Communication and conflict-management role-plays
- Real-world family, peer, workplace, and community scenarios
- Interviews or interactions with adults and older adults
- Community-resource research
- Healthy vs. unhealthy relationship case studies
- Work-life balance and stress-management planning
- Family and workplace problem-solving scenarios
- Service-learning and FCCLA connections when appropriate

South Dakota Standards Alignment

The following are the South Dakota Department of Education Lifespan Connections 19255 standards that guide the course.

LC 1 — Analyze functions and dynamics of interpersonal relationships.

LC 1.1 — Demonstrate communication skills that contribute to positive family, work, romantic, and acquaintance relationships.

LC 1.2 — Identify effective conflict prevention and management strategies.

LC 1.3 — Connect the relationship of diverse individual and family perspectives, needs and characteristics to their impact on society.

LC 1.4 — Investigate the influence that internal and external conditions have on interpersonal relationships.

LC 2 — Analyze factors that contribute to healthy relationships across the lifespan.

LC 2.1 — Connect interpersonal relationship strategies, techniques, and community resources to meet the diverse needs of children and adolescents.

LC 2.2 — Connect interpersonal relationship strategies, techniques, and community resources to meet the diverse needs of adults.

LC 2.3 — Connect interpersonal relationship strategies, techniques, and community resources to meet the diverse needs of the elderly.

LC 3 — Analyze characteristics of a healthy lifestyle.

LC 3.1 — Discuss the effect of lifestyle choices.

LC 3.2 — Contrast healthy and unhealthy relationships.

LC 4 — Evaluate the impact of relationships between family and workplace.

LC 4.1 — Determine the transferable skills necessary to function effectively in family, community, and wage-earner roles.

LC 4.2 — Investigate stress management techniques for life and work balance.

Prior Knowledge Needed

No prior knowledge is required. Prior to each unit, students can discuss their current understanding and experiences related to relationships, communication, families, and life stages.

Instruction should build from familiar relationship experiences toward more complex concepts involving adult relationships, caregiving, workplace roles, and community resources.

Assessment Framework

Formative Assessments

- Class participation and discussion
- Reflection activities
- Exit tickets
- Relationship scenarios
- Communication practice
- Role-play activities
- Case-study responses
- Vocabulary checks

Summative Assessments

- Communication and conflict assessment
- Healthy/unhealthy relationship case study
- Children/adolescent relationship analysis
- Adult relationship case study
- Family perspectives project
- Older-adult interview/resource project
- Work-life balance plan
- Final Lifespan Connections Portfolio

Performance-Based Assessments

- Communication simulations
- Conflict-resolution role-plays
- Relationship scenario analysis
- Community-resource investigation
- Interview with an older adult
- Family/workplace problem-solving scenarios

Differentiation & Student Support

Support Strategies

- Modeling and guided practice
- Guided notes
- Vocabulary supports
- Scenario scaffolding
- Graphic organizers
- Small-group instruction
- Teacher-led examples before independent practice
- Modified reading levels when needed

Enrichment

- Community-resource research
- Leadership and service opportunities
- Advanced family/workplace case studies
- Independent relationship research
- Human Services career exploration
- Interviews with professionals
- FCCLA-related projects

Classroom Management & Environment

The classroom will encourage respectful discussion, participation, and collaboration. Because Lifespan Connections deals with relationships, families, conflict, and personal choices, students should understand that people may have different experiences and perspectives. Activities should focus on respectful communication, appropriate boundaries, evidence-based analysis, empathy, and real-world application rather than requiring students to disclose private family or relationship experiences.

Cross-Curricular Connections

English/Language Arts: Speaking, listening, written reflection, analysis, interviewing, and presentations

Health: Healthy relationships, lifestyle choices, communication, stress management, and personal well-being

Career Readiness: Workplace relationships, communication, transferable skills, teamwork, and work-life balance

Social Sciences: Family structures, social influences, community relationships, and changing roles across the lifespan

Technology: Digital communication, social influences, and appropriate technology use within relationships

Work-Based Learning & CTSO Integration

Possible connections include:

- Guest speakers from Human Services careers
- Community organization presentations
- Job shadowing or career exploration
- Interviews with professionals
- Service-learning activities
- Community-resource research
- FCCLA projects involving interpersonal communication, families, children, leadership, and community service

Resources:

Primary Instructional Resources

- South Dakota Department of Education. *Lifespan Connections (19255) Course Standards*. Adopted May 2022.
- Westlake, Helen Gum, and Donald G. Westlake. *Relationships and Family Living*.
- Glencoe/McGraw-Hill. *Families Today*. © 2009.

Supplemental Resources

- South Dakota Department of Education Human Services resources
- FCCLA programs and STAR Events identified within the SD DOE course framework
- Current government, university, and research-based resources as appropriate to verify or supplement textbook content