Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Life Stages: Prenatal to Infancy	
Grade Level: 11-12	
Approval Date: January 2025	**Length of Time:** 90 Days

Course Description:
Life Stages: Prenatal to Infancy is a comprehensive course exploring human development from conception through early infancy. In line with Family and Consumer Science (FCS) curriculum, it covers key milestones in prenatal development, including physical, cognitive, and emotional growth, as well as factors that influence healthy development, such as genetics, maternal health, and environmental conditions. The course also delves into birth, neonatal care, and infant development, highlighting critical aspects like sensory, motor, and brain development, attachment, and early learning. Students will gain insights into developmental theories and the importance of early caregiving practices in shaping long-term outcomes.

Course Objectives:
Students will:

- Understand the stages of prenatal development and identify key milestones during pregnancy.
- Examine the influence of genetic, environmental, and maternal health factors on prenatal and infant development.
- Explore the physical, cognitive, and emotional growth of infants from birth to 12 months.
- Analyze key developmental theories related to early human development.
- Discuss the impact of early bonding, attachment, and caregiving practices on long-term developmental outcomes.
- Identify potential risks and complications during pregnancy, birth, and early infancy, along with preventive measures.
- Understand the role of sensory, motor, and brain development in infant learning and behavior.
- Explore cultural and societal factors that influence early development and caregiving practices.

Related Standards:

National Family and Consumer Science Standards

- 4.0 Education and Early Childhood
- 6.0 Family
- 7.0 Family and Human Services
- 12.0 Human Development
- 15.0 Parenting

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Career Education and Work

- 13.1.11.B Analyze career options based on personal interests, abilities, aptitudes, achievements and goals.

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading in Science and Technology

- CC.3.5.11-12.C. Follow precisely a complex multi-step procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks; analyze the specific results based on explanations in the text.

Pennsylvania Standards for Writing in Science and Technology

- CC.3.6.11-12.F. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including the self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Units:

- Prenatal Development and Key Milestones
- Genetics, Maternal Health, and Environmental Influences
- Infant Physical and Cognitive Growth
- Developmental Theories and Early Childhood
- Bonding, Attachment, and Early Caregiving
- Risks, Complications, and Cultural Perspectives

Concepts:

- **Human Development –** human development is a lifelong process which begins at conception and lays the foundation for lifelong physical, cognitive, and emotional health.
- **Nature & Nurture -** The interplay of nature and nurture has a significant impact on development and learning.
- **Relationships –** The connection between a caregiver and an infant/child is critical in early relationships and affects later developmental outcomes.
- **Cultural And Social Influences On Development –** Customs, beliefs, and societal factors all play a role in the early development stages of the infant
- **Brain Plasticity –** The brain is most flexible, or "plastic," early in life to accommodate a wide range of environments and interactions, making infancy the most crucial time for brain development.

Competencies:

Students will be able to:

- Analyze the stages of prenatal development and key developmental milestones.
- Understand the impact of genetic, environmental, and maternal health factors on early human development.
- Identify the physical, cognitive, and emotional growth patterns of infants from birth to 12 months.
- Apply major developmental theories to real-world scenarios involving prenatal and infant development.
- Explain the importance of early attachment and caregiving practices in shaping future developmental outcomes.
- Assess potential risks during pregnancy, birth, and infancy and suggest preventive or intervention strategies.
- Interpret how cultural and societal contexts influence caregiving practices and early childhood development.
- Recognize the role of sensory and motor development in early infant learning and behavior.

Learning Activities:

- Interactive Lectures
- Case Studies: Analyze real or hypothetical case studies of prenatal and infant development, assessing factors such as genetics, environment, and health influences on outcomes.
- Observational Research: observe infants (in person or through video) to document developmental milestones such as motor

Performance Tasks:

- Independent classwork assignments
- Group classwork assignments
- Research Projects
- Group Projects
- Observations
- Presentations
- Knowledge Checks
- Real Care Infant Simulation

skills, cognitive responses, and social behaviors.
- Interactive Simulations: Engage in digital simulations that model prenatal development and infant growth.
- Real-Life Simulation: Engage in a real-life simulation of infant care using Real Care Infants (Reality Works). Additionally, students will have an opportunity to engage in a pregnancy profile simulator (Reality Works)
- Developmental Theory Application: apply developmental theories to analyze early childhood development scenarios.
- Class Discussions and Debates: Participate in group discussions on topics pertaining to the unit.
- Research Projects: Conduct research on current issues in prenatal and infant development.
- Guest Speaker Sessions: Engage with healthcare professionals, developmental psychologists, or early childhood educators to gain real-world insights into the topics covered. Alternatively, students will research various professionals in applicable fields to gain insight into their role in early childhood development.
- Knowledge Checks- Provide an opportunity to reevaluate content learned throughout and/or at the end of a unit.

Other Assessment Measures:

- In-class participation
- Safe Sleep Ambassador Training (Certificate)
- Child and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED Training (Certificate)
- Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting in PA (Certificate)
- Infants In Childcare (Certificate, Counts toward CDA (Child Development Assocaite) Credential). From: **Pennsylvania Child Care Training | Care Courses**

Textbook/Primary Resource:

Title: Child Development: Early Stages Through Adolescence, 10th Edition, Author: Celia Anita Decker, Ed.D. , Julia McClannon, and Michelle McCoy, ISBN: 978-1-68584-228-4

Supplemental Resource Materials:

- Online articles
- Online resources
- Teacher generated notes and presentations
- Teacher-generated activities
- Real Care Infants (Reality Works)
- Multi-media resources