

The Human Life Cycle

All humans develop at their own pace. While everyone goes through the same stages of the human life cycle in the same order, the age at which each stage begins may differ. Humans may learn skills in different orders or may develop independence at different rates.



Fertilisation

The male and female sex cells fuse.

Prenatal

The embryo/foetus develops inside the uterus. The gestation period for humans is usually about nine months.

Baby

This is the first year of life. Babies usually communicate their needs by crying.

Toddler

Toddlers usually learn to move around by themselves and communicate more readily with others.

Childhood

Children learn lots of new skills and are able to do more things without help.

Adolescence

Adolescents go through puberty. They become more independent.

Adulthood

Many adults live independently and may start their own family. They may have a job.

Later Adulthood

Later adulthood can be different for everyone. Older adults may experience changes to their lifestyle and health.

Key Vocabulary

prenatal

The prenatal period is the period before birth.

fertilisation

Fertilisation is the process of the male and female sex cells fusing together to create new life.

gestation

Gestation is the period of time during which an animal's offspring is developing in the uterus.

reproduce

To reproduce is to produce offspring.