



Lesson Sequence



1. Identify the key stages of a mammal's life cycle



2. Explore the gestation periods of mammals



3. Learn about foetal development



4. Investigate the hand span of different aged children



5. Learn about the changes experienced in puberty



6. Describe the changes humans may experience during old age

Human Gestation Period (9 months*)

The gestation period is when the **foetus** develops inside the **female**. It is different in all **mammals**.



Some animals give birth to 1 baby – the North American Opossum has between 16 and 20!

- Humans - 9 months
- Elephants – 23 months
- Basking shark – 42 months
- North American Opossum - 12 days

Human Young (0-3years*)

Young mammals (babies) are **dependent** - they:

- need milk
- have poor muscle control
- need lots of sleep
- cannot control toileting



Puppies are born with their eyes closed.

Human babies see light and dark.

Toddlers begin walking between 1-2 years.

Human Adults (21-100 years*)

- Adults are fully grown.
- A dog reaches adulthood at about 2 years.
- Adults reproduce so the whole cycle starts again.



A middle-aged adult



An elderly adult

Human Youngsters (4-11 years*)

Human and other mammal youngsters walk **independently**, eat independently and toilet independently. They begin to learn new skills.



Human Adolescents/Young Adults (12-21 years*)



- Shoulders broaden
- More muscly
- Hair on legs, chest and face
- Penis and scrotum develops
- Voice breaks

During puberty, hormones cause physical, mental and emotional changes. Some are the same for boys and girls:

- Hair on armpits and groin.
- Greasy skin/spots
- Mood swings



- Hips broaden
- Breasts develop
- Menstruation starts (periods)

***These are approximate ages – every individual is different.**