

Youth Development Practitioner Pre-Apprenticeship Curriculum

Overview

Designed to introduce learners to the youth development field, this pre-apprenticeship curriculum provides an entry point for young adults interested in pursuing a career supporting other youth. The curriculum infuses the [National After School Association's](#) ten Core Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies (CKSC) for Out-of-School Time Professionals and is aligned for entry into the [Youth Development Practitioner](#) (YDP) occupation.

Designed for participants ages 16-24, implementors can incorporate their state-specific credentialing information, local resources, and wraparound supports. Partnership with a youth-serving organization is required for successful delivery and application of the curriculum topics.

Structure

- 42 hours
- 4 modules with 27 sessions
- Recommended completion within 10 weeks

Session Outline

Module 1: Orientation

Introduces participants to apprenticeships, youth work careers, and set goals for their time in the program.

Session	Topic	Time	NAA CKSC Alignment
1.1	Defining Pre-Apprenticeship Facilitators and participants will begin building a relationship and establishing a welcoming learning environment as they review the program goals and expectations.	90 mins	-
1.2	Youth Work Career Pathways Participants will learn about various youth work occupations and the skills, training, and certifications required to pursue them.	90 mins	Introduces the 10 competencies
1.3	Goal Setting Participants will set goals for the remainder of the pre-apprenticeship program and their future career.	90 mins	-

1.4	Module 1 Reflection Participants will assess their comprehension of the module topics.	30 mins	-
Module 1 Total Time:		5 hours	

Module 2: Introduction to Positive Youth Development

Participants will be introduced to the foundational concepts of PYD.

Session	Topic	Time	NAA CKSC Alignment
2.1	Principles of Positive Youth Development Participants will learn the basics of PYD and why youth development matters.	90 mins	1: Child/Youth Growth and Development
2.2	Understanding Youth Part 1 Participants will learn the definition of child and youth and review the stages of child and youth development.	90 mins	1: Child/Youth Growth and Development
2.3	Understanding Youth Part 2 Participants will learn the importance of formative assessments and review resources for supporting youth with a variety of needs.	90 mins	3: Child/Youth Observation and Assessment 6: Equity and Inclusion
2.4	Positive Youth Outcomes Participants will be introduced various models of positive youth outcomes and the necessary supports to achieve those outcomes.	90 mins	-
2.5	Youth Engagement & Relationships Participants will learn what meaningful youth engagement looks like and the benefits of positive youth-adult interactions.	90 mins	4: Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth 5: Youth Engagement, Voice, and Choice
2.6	Module 2 Reflection Participants will assess their comprehension of the module topics.	30 mins	Incorporates elements of the NAA Self-Assessment Tool.
Module 2 Total Time:		8 hours	

Module 3: Exploring Youth Development Work

Participants will get a deeper look into the YDP occupation, employers, training, and the YDP registered apprenticeship.

Session	Topic	Time	NAA CKSC Alignment
3.1	Youth Work Landscape Participants will learn about typical employers and work environments for youth-serving occupations and explore local opportunities.	90 mins	10: Professional Development and Leadership
3.2	Youth Development Programming Participants will learn the features of effective programming and planning strategies.	90 mins	2: Learning Environments and Curriculum
3.3	Ethics and Related Issues Participants will explore the ethical side of youth work, confidentiality, and other related topics.	90 mins	8: Safety and Wellness 10: Professional Development and Leadership
3.4	Professional Panel Participants will hear from youth work professionals on current topics in the field.	90 mins	7: Family, School, and Community Relationships 9: Program Planning and Development 10: Professional Development and Leadership
3.5	Introduction to the Youth Development Practitioner Registered Apprenticeship Participants will learn about the YDP RAP sponsored by FHI 360 and explore how they can pursue apprenticeship programs.	60 mins	-
3.6	Module 3 Reflection Participants will assess their comprehension of the module topics.	30 mins	Incorporates elements of the NAA Self-Assessment Tool.
Module 3 Total Time:		7.5 hours	

Module 4: Competencies in Action

Participants will have the opportunity to develop some of the key skills needed for youth development work. These sessions also include a Skill Builder Challenge, allowing participants an opportunity to practice the ten core competencies for youth workers.

Session	Topic	Time	NAA CKSC Alignment
4.1	Skills for Success Participants will learn about work readiness skills and complete a self-assessment.	2 hours	10: Professional Development and Leadership

Session	Topic	Time	NAA CKSC Alignment
4.2	Interpersonal Communication and Digital Storytelling Participants will enhance their ability to express themselves confidently and build strong connections with others through the power of shared narratives.	2 hours	1: Child/Youth Growth and Development 5: Youth Engagement, Voice, and Choice
4.3	Empathy and Emotional Intelligence Participants will learn how to use empathetic listening skills to support inclusive environments.	2 hours	6: Equity and Inclusion
4.4	Increase Your Creativity Participants will learn how different thinking styles support creativity and create a vision-board.	2 hours	2: Learning Environments and Curriculum
4.5	Strengthening Teamwork Skills Participants will practice using their communication and collaboration skills to achieve a goal.	2 hours	9: Program Planning and Development
4.6	Mental Health and Self-Care Participants will learn the differences between mental health and mental illness and engage in self-care activities to promote overall well-being	2 hours	8: Safety and Wellness
4.7	Social Capital and Mentorship Participants will learn about the importance of community support for personal and professional growth and the impact of mentoring.	2 hours	7: Family, School, and Community Relationships
4.8	Time Management Participants will learn to maximize their productivity and efficiency by using a time journal and Eisenhower's time matrix to identify strategies for better time management.	2 hours	3: Child/Youth Observation and Assessment
4.9	Conflict Management Participants will learn about conflict management, effective conflict resolution techniques and take a management style assessment.	2 hours	4: Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth
4.10	Personal Branding and LinkedIn Participants develop their brand and profile with the assistance of technology.	2 hours	10: Professional Development and Leadership
4.11	Module 4 Reflection Participants will assess their comprehension of the module topics.	90 mins	Incorporates elements of the NAA Self-Assessment Tool.
Module 4 Total Time:		21.5 hours	