

Key Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
Offspring	A child or young animal
Foetus	The term for an unborn offspring still within the female mammal's body
Dependent	An offspring needing others to look after it
Adolescent	A mammal's young adult offspring
Puberty	The period of life when a human's sexual organs mature
Gestation	The period of time an animal is pregnant for
Pregnant	When an animal contains a foetus within the body
Toddler	The name of the stage given to a young child when they start to walk
Prenatal	The stage before birth when the foetus is developing in the womb
Breeding	Mating and producing offspring
Embryo	The name of the unborn offspring in the first few weeks of development
Hormones	Chemical messengers produced by the body

Key Knowledge

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.