

# 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	<b>Defining Pre-Apprenticeship</b> 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	<b>Youth Work Career Pathways</b> 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	<b>Goal Setting</b> Participants will set goals for the remainder of the pre-apprenticeship program and their future career.	90 mins	-

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

## Module 2: Introduction to Positive Youth Development

Participants will be introduced to the foundational concepts of PYD.

Session	Topic	Time	NAA CKSC Alignment
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Principles of Positive Youth Development</b> Participants will learn the basics of PYD and why youth development matters.	90 mins	1: Child/Youth Growth and Development
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Understanding Youth Part 1</b> 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
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Understanding Youth Part 2</b> 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
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Positive Youth Outcomes</b> Participants will be introduced various models of positive youth outcomes and the necessary supports to achieve those outcomes.	90 mins	-
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Youth Engagement &amp; Relationships</b> 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
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Module 2 Reflection</b> Participants will assess their comprehension of the module topics.	30 mins	Incorporates elements of the NAA Self-Assessment Tool.
<b>Module 2 Total Time:</b>		<b>8 hours</b>	

## 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	<b>Youth Work Landscape</b> 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	<b>Youth Development Programming</b> Participants will learn the features of effective programming and planning strategies.	90 mins	2: Learning Environments and Curriculum
3.3	<b>Ethics and Related Issues</b> 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	<b>Professional Panel</b> 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	<b>Introduction to the Youth Development Practitioner Registered Apprenticeship</b> Participants will learn about the YDP RAP sponsored by FHI 360 and explore how they can pursue apprenticeship programs.	60 mins	-
3.6	<b>Module 3 Reflection</b> Participants will assess their comprehension of the module topics.	30 mins	Incorporates elements of the NAA Self-Assessment Tool.
<b>Module 3 Total Time:</b>		<b>7.5 hours</b>	

## 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	<b>Skills for Success</b> 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	<b>Interpersonal Communication and Digital Storytelling</b> 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	<b>Empathy and Emotional Intelligence</b> Participants will learn how to use empathetic listening skills to support inclusive environments.	2 hours	6: Equity and Inclusion
4.4	<b>Increase Your Creativity</b> Participants will learn how different thinking styles support creativity and create a vision-board.	2 hours	2: Learning Environments and Curriculum
4.5	<b>Strengthening Teamwork Skills</b> Participants will practice using their communication and collaboration skills to achieve a goal.	2 hours	9: Program Planning and Development
4.6	<b>Mental Health and Self-Care</b> 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	<b>Social Capital and Mentorship</b> 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	<b>Time Management</b> 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	<b>Conflict Management</b> 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	<b>Personal Branding and LinkedIn</b> Participants develop their brand and profile with the assistance of technology.	2 hours	10: Professional Development and Leadership
4.11	<b>Module 4 Reflection</b> Participants will assess their comprehension of the module topics.	90 mins	Incorporates elements of the NAA Self-Assessment Tool.
<b>Module 4 Total Time:</b>		<b>21.5 hours</b>	