



Facilitator Guide for Teachers and Educators

Human Development and Sexual Health: Human Development and Hygiene (Grade 4)

Introduction

This module provides educators who teach students in grade 4 with a lesson on human development. The module supports the learning objectives of The Health & Physical Education Ontario Curriculum.

Learning objectives

By the end of this presentation students will be able to better understand:

- Personal care and hygiene
- Physical changes during puberty
- Emotional and social changes during puberty
- Self-concept
- Safe use of technology

Purpose

Improving and protecting the health and well-being of school-aged children and youth is a priority for Ontario's public health sector. Childhood is a time when health practices and behaviours are learned, and adolescence is a period when both positive health behaviours and risk behaviours can be adopted. Because curriculum for the school year may be delivered at various times by different educators, this guide allows the educator to deliver self-paced content related to human development in the classroom at their convenience. Depending on the level of discussion, student engagement, and the preferences of the educator, the length of this presentation can vary from approximately 30 to 60 minutes. Please ensure familiarization of the content prior to teaching to ensure there is sufficient time within classroom hours.



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About this guide

This guide is intended as a supplemental resource for educators who choose to deliver the health modules developed by Ottawa Public Health (OPH). As content is updated annually and/or when new evidence emerges, we encourage educators to frequently check back on the [School Health Online](#) webpage to access the most up-to-date content.

Additional resources

For more information on human development, available services and resources please visit the following:

- [School Health Online](#)
- [Talking to Your Child about Puberty – Parenting in Ottawa](#)
- [Your Body – Sex and U](#)

Disclaimer

The information provided is not a substitute for professional medical advice. Educators should encourage students to consult their parents or guardians, and/or qualified healthcare professionals for personal guidance related to human development. Educators should approach questions about human development with sensitivity, respect, and an understanding of the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their students. When responding to a student question, the response should be adapted to reflect the age and maturity of the student as well as the classroom environment and individual school policies.

Considerations

Becoming informed about a topic prior to discussing it in a classroom setting, will help create a productive and comfortable conversation with youth. This module includes topics that some students may find uncomfortable and/or difficult to understand. Here are some considerations to support the students' learning experience:

- Be sensitive to different backgrounds and experiences.



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- As much as possible, be aware of experiences in your students' lives that may make certain discussions uncomfortable for them. Consider letting students know ahead of time that the topic will be discussed in class and use proper judgment if accommodations are needed.
- Watch for signs of discomfort.
 - Monitor students' faces and body language.
- Allow ample time for discussion.
 - Allow enough time to introduce the topic, discuss as a group, summarize, and answer questions.
 - Using an anonymous "question box" may encourage students to ask questions they otherwise would not feel comfortable asking in front of the class.

Continued collaboration

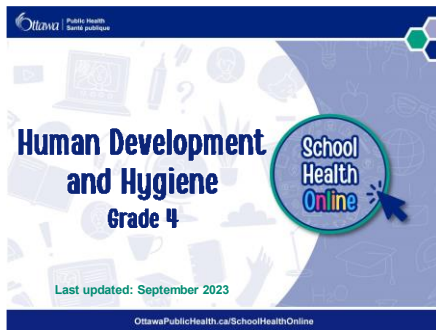
Our commitment to improving health outcomes is an ongoing journey*. We encourage you to share feedback and suggestions for improvement on this module, using our feedback form found on our [School Health Online](#) webpage. Together, we can continuously refine our resources to better the evolving needs of our school communities.

*Last updated: September 2023

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Module

Slide 1



Please use as suggestions only:

Prior to beginning this module, it can be helpful to include a statement such as: "I know this can be a sensitive topic and can make people feel uncomfortable." Let your students know that you are not uncomfortable, and that this is such an important topic to start talking about even before youth may have started thinking about puberty. Reinforce that this is a safe space where students can learn about their bodies and health to be better able to make informed decisions for themselves.

Ground rules: Review classroom etiquette or establish ground rules together as a group, prior to this lesson.

Some examples:

- Refraining from discussing personal situations or stories; however, students are encouraged to speak to their teacher privately if they would like to discuss a topic further.
- Respecting all beliefs and cultural values.
 - **Cultural sensitivity:** People's decisions and behaviours related to one's sexuality are influenced by their cultural beliefs, values and practices. It is important to acknowledge our own personal cultural values and beliefs while respecting that others may not share the same ones.
- Using inclusive language and proper terminology.
- Welcoming all questions.
- Listening attentively.
- Helping create a safe space for students – an environment of respect and sensitivity.
- Keeping classroom discussions confidential.

Inclusive language: Inclusive language is used to include individuals of all genders and sexual orientation. Using inclusive language provides a safe space for students, as well as a respectful,


Slide 2

Before we start...



Let's cover some ground rules!

*Reminder that support is always available at school.
Other community resources will be shared at the end of the module.

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	<p>caring and welcoming environment. It is also important to note and share with students that during the lessons, when the female and male anatomy are discussed, they are discussed from a biological standpoint meaning sex assignment at birth. However, it is important to point out to students that for some people, their assigned sex does not match their gender expression and experience and that is okay. The information outlined in this presentation is intended to educate students about the functions of the human body and provide them with valuable knowledge to make healthy and safe choices in their lives.</p> <p>Note to educator: When talking about body parts, emphasize physiology instead of gender. Referring to “bodies with a penis and testicles” or “bodies with a vulva and ovaries” is more accurate and inclusive than referring to boys or girls. It may be useful to show diagrams of the external genitals if students do not know the words “vulva” or “penis”. For example, rather than saying “Girls will go through menstruation”, educators could refer to a diagram of the reproductive system and explain that “For those who have ovaries, menstruation usually begins between the ages of 8-18”.</p>
<p>Slide 3</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hygiene ■ Puberty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical changes • Emotional & social changes ■ Reproductive systems ■ Self-concept ■ Online safety  <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Topics covered in this module include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene • Puberty: physical changes and emotional and social changes • Reproductive systems • Self-concept • Online safety

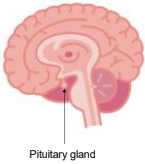
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<p>Slide 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hygiene Why is it important?</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents body odours • Removes excess oils on skin • Creates a healthy lifestyle and healthy habits <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Having healthy personal hygiene is an important part of development. Hygiene is especially important during puberty as sweat glands become more active and skin starts producing more oil.</p> <p>Hygiene is a set of measures to maintain health and lower the risk of getting sick from diseases caused by germs (bacteria and viruses). Personal hygiene includes practices performed to keep the body healthy and preserve our well-being. These include removing excess oil from the skin, creating a healthy lifestyle and a good routine, and preventing body odour.</p>
<p>Slide 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Personal hygiene includes...</p>  <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Suggested activity: have students guess which aspect of personal hygiene corresponds to each number. Click on each number (in any order) to reveal each component of hygiene.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comb or brush hair to avoid tangles as needed. Some may not need to brush their hair daily (e.g., very short hair, braided hair) 2. Wash hair with shampoo and conditioner. The frequency that one should wash their hair will vary for each person. Some people wash their hair every day, while others wash it once or twice a week. It all depends on their hair. People whose hair looks dirty between shampoos may decide to wash it more often. 3. Brush teeth and tongue with toothpaste in the morning and before bedtime. Don't forget the teeth towards the back of the mouth! Flossing should be done at least once a day. 4. Wash face to remove the build-up of dirt and oils. This helps keep the skin clean and healthy looking. 5. Apply deodorant or antiperspirant as needed. The sweat glands in the armpits become active at puberty and produce sweat, which can cause unpleasant odours when it comes into contact with bacteria on the skin. We use a deodorant to cover up this smell. People can use it when they notice body odour. It is applied every day after the shower or the bath or


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	<p>according to the needs. An antiperspirant is used to reduce perspiration. It can also be used to reduce underarm wetness and odour.</p> <p>6. Wash hands several times a day (e.g. after going to the bathroom, before eating, if hands feel or seem to be dirty, after touching animals, etc.). Hand hygiene refers to all actions that help reduce the spread of germs that can cause illness. This includes the following gestures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands • Use hand sanitizer • Cough and sneeze into the crook of the elbow (not into hands) or a tissue • Become aware of the presence of germs on surfaces • Keep hands away from face to prevent germs from coming into contact with the face <p>7. Change clothes (including underwear and socks) and wash clothes regularly. Properly clean the genitals after using the toilet and wear clean underwear. To maintain good hygiene, wear clean, dry clothes every day. Clothes should be washed when they are dirty or smell bad. Likewise, underwear and socks should be changed every day.</p> <p>8. Take a bath or shower regularly. A soap or shower gel is used to remove dirt and oil from the skin and thus reduce the number of bacteria that can cause bad odours. They are used during the shower or bath every day or after intense physical activity. Make sure the water is not too hot and apply lotion as needed to prevent the skin from drying out.</p>
<p>Slide 6</p> <p>Genital care</p> <p>Vulva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wipe from front to back Use mild, unscented soap Dry well Use unscented feminine hygiene products Put on clean underwear <p>Penis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gently pull back the foreskin (if uncircumcised) Wash the head and tip of the penis with mild soap Dry well Bring the foreskin back over the head of the penis Put on clean underwear <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>How to clean the genitals:</p> <p>Vulva:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the vulva from the front to the back to avoid infection • Use water and mild, unscented soap to clean the vulva, inner and outer labia • Never put soapy water into the vagina. The vagina cleans itself and does not need products • Dry well and put on clean underwear

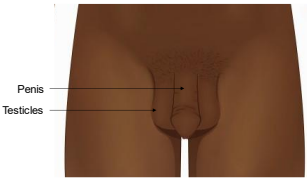
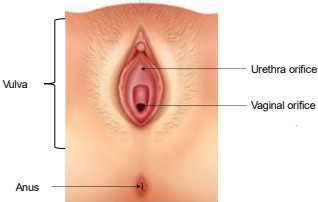
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	<p>Penis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use water and mild soap to wash the head and tip of the penis. Those with foreskin should gently pull back the foreskin to ensure the head of the penis is properly washed. • Dry well and pull foreskin back over the head of penis • Put on clean underwear <p>Note: It is normal to have some thick, white discharge under the foreskin. This is called smegma. If there is a lot of smegma or it is smelly, the penis may need to be cleaned more often.</p> <p>If students ask what circumcised means: Circumcised means that the foreskin (the skin covering the head of the penis) has been removed. On an uncircumcised penis, the foreskin is still covering the head but can be slid back. All penises, whether circumcised or uncircumcised, work the same!</p>
<p>Slide 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Puberty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What is puberty? ■ Pituitary gland ■ Hormones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testosterone • Estrogen • Progesterone  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Pituitary gland</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;">OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</p>	<p>Puberty is a period when the body begins to develop and change during the transition into adulthood. During puberty our bodies go through many physical and emotional changes. On average, puberty happens between the age of 8 to 18, and changes occur gradually. Not all bodies experience changes of the same kind, or at the same time.</p> <p>Physical changes during puberty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These changes occur because of hormones in the body. • The pituitary gland sends messages to the sex glands (ovaries and testes) to release hormones: testosterone, estrogen and progesterone. • Testosterone is produced by the testes and released into the blood to target other parts of the body to change or grow. • Estrogen and progesterone are produced by the ovaries and released into the blood to target other parts of the body to change or develop.


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<p>Slide 8</p> <p>Physical changes during puberty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Growth in height ■ Weight (muscles, hips) ■ Hair (underarm, pubic) ■ Genitals ■ Skin ■ Body odour  <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>These changes occur during puberty regardless of the sex assigned at birth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Growth: Both height and weight. ● Hair: Body, facial, armpits, pubic. Some people choose to remove their body hair, but it is a personal choice and is not necessary. ● Genitals: Further details in the upcoming slides. ● Skin: Can become oily, and pimples start to appear on the face and body. This is normal and happens due to the changes in hormones. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acne does not mean a person is dirty! A person can have perfect hygiene and still have acne. ● Body odour: Sweat glands become more active and an increase in body odour can occur. Deodorants and antiperspirants can mask body odour; discuss the best option with a trusted adult. <p>Note to educator: Emotional & social changes will be discussed in detail in later slides.</p>
<p>Slide 9</p> <p>Specific changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assigned female at birth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breasts • Vaginal discharge ■ Assigned male at birth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facial hair • Changes in voice <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Some changes are more specific to an assigned sex:</p> <p>Assigned female at birth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weight changes are concentrated around the following areas: breasts, hips, waist, thighs, and buttocks ● Vaginal discharge: White or clear odourless vaginal discharge is normal, and it helps to clean and moisten your vagina. If there is a change in colour (such as brown, gray, or green), or if there is any itching, burning, or strong odour, these may be signs of an infection. A primary care provider should be seen for screening. <p><i>*Menstrual cycle will be discussed in grade 5 module</i></p> <p>Assigned male at birth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facial hair growth ● Voice changes: the larynx grows, which deepens the voice. It may stick out in the neck area, which is called the Adam's apple. ● Weight changes are concentrated around the following areas:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening of the shoulders • Development of muscle tone (thicker and larger muscles) • Testicles get bigger; one may fall lower on one side • Penis lengthens and thickens <p><i>*Erection & ejaculation will be discussed in grade 5 module</i></p>
<p>Slide 10</p> <p>Assigned male at birth External genitalia</p>  <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Describe each part of the body and its role:</p> <p>Testicles/testes: glands that produce and store sperm</p> <p>Penis: external organ used to urinate.</p>
<p>Slide 11</p> <p>Assigned female at birth External genitalia</p>  <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Describe each part of the body and its role:</p> <p>Vulva: includes the labia minora and labia majora; often mistakenly called the vagina when, in fact, the vagina is the canal that runs from the opening of the vagina to the cervix</p> <p>Urethral orifice: opening that leads to the urethra and where urine exits the body</p> <p>Vaginal orifice: opening that leads to the vaginal canal; a thin membrane called the hymen surrounds the opening of the vagina, and usually erodes over time. Just like other parts of the body, hymens differ from person to person (some people have very little hymen tissue, while others have more).</p> <p>Anus: sphincter attached to the rectum that passes stool or fecal matter from the body</p> <p>Additional information for educator:</p> <p>Clitoris: most sensitive part of the vulva</p> <p>Labia majora: outer fold of skin that functions to protect the opening of the urethra and the vagina</p>

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	<p>Labia minora: inner fold of skin that functions to protect the opening of the urethra and the vagina</p>
<p>Slide 12</p> <p>Emotional and social changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More intense emotions and feelings ■ Confusion and questions about changing bodies ■ Adjusting to changing relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More independence • New interest in relationships • Influenced by friends & classmates ■ Searching for identity  <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Just as external changes happen to the body during puberty, changes also happen inside! Puberty and adolescence is a time of social and emotional change and development.</p> <p>Emotional changes are common during puberty. It’s normal for youth to have strong feelings at different times, and not always know why. Mood swings may be more common. Youth are learning how to express and control emotions. Remind students that there is always someone to talk to if they are having strong feelings.</p> <p>As youth grow, they may feel self-conscious about their changing bodies. All bodies grow at different rates, and there is no way to speed up or slow down this process. This can lead to stress for youth during puberty. Encourage youth to ask questions or express concerns about their changing bodies, to a trusted adult.</p> <p>Adjusting to changing relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is normal for youth to want more independence and want to spend more time with friends. Conflict between youth and parents/guardians may be more common as youth seek independence. • Youth are more heavily influenced by their peers during this transition period. Self-esteem may be affected by their peers and their appearance. • Youth may experience more intense feelings, a new interest in relationships, and “crushes”. <p>Searching for identity: as youth grow and mature, they are exploring who they are and where they fit in the world. This can be influenced by gender, friends, cultural background, media, school and family expectations. Conflicts can arise when there are differences between personal desires and family expectations or cultural teachings and practices.</p> <p><i>*Personal identity will be explored further in the next slide.</i></p>

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Slide 13

What makes me, me?



OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline

Personal identity:

- Everyone has their own personal identity.
- People realize what their own identity is, at their own pace, as they go through life. Puberty is a time of change when youth often start exploring their personal identity.
- This can change throughout life depending on what's going on in one's life, and what's most important to them.
- It is unique for each person; however, may include age, culture, interests/hobbies, language, race, appearance, job/education & religion.
- It is important to do what feels right and to stay true to beliefs.
- It is important to be surrounded by people who are respectful and accepting.

Self-concept:

- Is an idea that an individual has about their own identity including their abilities, traits and emotions.
- Is a person's overall perception and beliefs about themselves.
- Includes both the individual's perceived positive qualities (ex: intelligence/kindness) and perceived negative qualities (weakness/insecurities).
- Can be influenced by other people and their opinions.
- Can at times make people feel good or bad about themselves.

Self-esteem:

- The value, respect and opinion that a person has about all aspects of themselves.
- It impacts the way a person takes care of themselves emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

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<p>Slide 14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Consent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consent is permission for something to happen or an agreement to do something. ■ Nobody can make someone do something they don't want to. ■ If a person tells someone to stop, they should stop. ■ No one should touch another person without their consent. <div style="text-align: right;"> </div> <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consent includes knowing and respecting a person's own boundaries as well as the boundaries of others ● Understanding consent means that a person has the skills to leave a situation that doesn't feel comfortable, and respects when other people want to do the same ● Everyone has the right to make decisions about their body. This includes deciding if they would like a hug or kiss from family members or friends
<p>Slide 15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Online safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Never share personal information online. ■ Never share naked pictures online. ■ Only use social media with individuals that you know and trust. ■ Do not accept friend requests from people who you have no connection to. <div style="text-align: right;"> </div> <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Online Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social media should only be used with people that a person has met in real life and not online. ● Never meet up with a stranger alone. ● Never share naked pictures. ● Never share an address, phone number or school location with anyone on the internet. The person may not be who they say they are. ● Talk to a trusted adult if there are questions or specific concerns about online safety.

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<p>Slide 16</p> <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	<p>Suggestion: Have a “question box” where students can submit questions anonymously.</p> <p>Refer to “FAQs by students” for frequently asked questions and answers about puberty.</p>
<p>Slide 17</p> <p>Resources & services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Where to find credible information on puberty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to a trusted adult such as a parent or guardian • The Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ottawa Public Health • Community health clinic • Primary health care provider and other health care professionals <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	
<p>Slide 18</p> <p>References</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Canadian Pediatric Society ■ The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada ■ Parenting in Ottawa ■ The Link ■ Canadian Paediatric Society ■ The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education ■ Ontario Ministry of Education ■ Planned Parenthood ■ Kids Help Phone ■ Niagara Region Public Health ■ MediaSmarts ■ HealthLink BC ■ KidsHealth.org ■ Kids Helpline ■ www.healthdirect.gov.au <p><small>OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolHealthOnline</small></p>	



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