



About the Course

Why the Course Is Needed

Children learn to talk at an amazing rate but what does it take to learn to talk? Most parents and professionals know the early motor milestones—that children should be sitting up at around 6 months, crawling at 9 months, walking at 12 months. However, few parents or professionals know the key early social communication milestones. These milestones offer a critical window into the wellbeing of infants and toddlers and are the earliest signs of healthy development and school readiness

Course Audience

Social Communication Development in Infants and Toddlers (SC•DIT) is an online professional development course designed as a stand-alone course for continuing education units or a module within a university course for undergraduates or beginning graduate students. It is geared for any discipline that will work with young children and families, including child development, communication science and disorders, psychology, social work, early childhood education and special education, nursing, pediatrics, family medicine, or other related fields. The course has two levels described below.

SC•DIT—Knowledge & Skills Level Course Content

The Knowledge and Skills level course content is organized into 5 domains of social communication development with two developmental threads within each domain:



Domains and Threads

Developmental Domains	Thread 1	Thread 2
1. Language	Gestures & Meanings	Sounds and Words
2. Play	Using Actions with Objects	Social Sharing with Objects
3. Social Interaction	Social Attention	Intentional Communication
4. Emotional Regulation	Sharing & Managing Emotions	Regulating Challenging Moments
5. Self-Directed Learning	Understanding Messages	Creating New Ideas

Our self-paced course has an Explore function with side-by-side video players with hundreds of video clips to illustrate 80 social communication milestones that develop from 9 to 24 months of age—8 milestones per thread and 16 milestones in each each domain totaling 80.

The Study-Guide function of the course has self-guided Lessons to provide opportunities to study how the social communication milestones shift and change over time from 9 to 24 months, how reaching milestones in these 5 developmental domains culminate in school readiness indicators by 24 months, and how the developmental interaction of reaching these milestones across domains has a cumulative impact that leads to 5 critical paths to learning.

The online course includes fillable forms for learners to complete the 15 self-guided Lessons. Learners can also complete an on-line Learning Assessment with 10 multiple-choice questions for each domain and receive a certificate of completion with a score of 80% or higher. An Instructor's Guide is available to professors or instructors using Social Communication Development in Infants and Toddlers as a module within a university course and includes guidelines for grading the self-guided Lessons.

10 Lessons on the Domains Linked with School Readiness Indicators

Growth within Developmental Domains	Lessons	School Readiness Indicators
• Language	1 - 2	Language Learning
• Play	3 - 4	Imagination
• Social Interaction	5 - 6	Social Connectedness
• Emotional Regulation	7 - 8	Cooperation
• Self-Directed Learning	9 - 10	Problem Solving & Critical Thinking

SC•DIT—Mastery Level Course

The Mastery level course content is for professionals who provide home visiting for families at risk or with children who have communication delays. The Mastery level builds on the Knowledge and Skills level course by teaching learners how to infuse the social communication milestones into home visiting programs to support families enrolled in the *Social Communication Growth Charts*. This includes a manual for individual home visiting to coach families on how to support their child's social communication development in everyday activities, a manual to facilitate group virtual meetings that offer interactive online sessions with groups of families, and links to social media to engage families.



5 Lessons on the Developmental Interaction Linked with Critical Paths to Learning

Developmental Interaction Across Domains	Lessons	Critical Paths to Learning
• Language	11	Sharing Experiences
• Play	12	Constructing Meanings
• Social Interaction	13	Observational Learning
• Emotional Regulation	14	Advocating for Self
• Self-Directed Learning	15	Drive for Learning and Mastery

Social Communication Growth Charts

For all families—explore video clips to learn key social communication milestones that develop from 9 to 24 months and chart their child's social communication development.

Most parents and professionals are familiar with early motor milestones— when infants learn to hold their head up, turn over, sit up, crawl, and walk. However, few parents or professionals know the key milestones of social, communication, and language development. Yet these milestones offer a critical window into an infant's well being and are the earliest signs of healthy development and school readiness. These Growth Charts are available free to families who have been invited by their doctor or health care provider. Parents can **explore** our side-by-side video player to see video clips illustrating 80 social communication milestones that develop from 9 to 24 months of age in 5 different domains. They can watch the clips again with narration to see how they can support their child's development. Parents can **chart** their child's development and celebrate these early critical steps in development as they watch their child grow. The Growth Charts offer an unparalleled video library of hundreds of video clips of typically developing infants and toddlers interacting with their family in everyday activities. This information will help parents be better equipped to monitor their child's development and share and express their concerns with their primary care physician, if their child has not yet met expected developmental milestones.

