



Building Stepfamilies That Work[®]

Teen Development

AREA	EARLY ADOLESCENT 11 to 14 Years	MID ADOLESCENT 15 to 17 Years	LATE ADOLESCENT 18 to 20 Years
<i>BODY</i>	Rapid changes leading to discomfort and self-consciousness: body image in flux	Growing comfort with body	Acceptance of adult body.
<i>FAMILY</i>	Strong but ambivalent ties to family.	Struggle for independence and autonomy; constant testing of limits	Re-establishment of ties with family.
<i>PEERS</i>	Same sex friends most common.	Strong peer influence assists in separation from family.	Individual relationships sought and valued
<i>SEXUALITY</i>	Undifferentiated relationships with same and opposite sex; fantasy common but actual activity infrequent.	Sexual experimentation and risk taking; need to feel grown-up; tendency to be easily influenced.	Intimate, committed relationships sought.
<i>COGNITION</i>	Concrete, here-and-now thinking; inability to appreciate long-term consequences of actions; denial as major defense.	Impulsive and unpredictable behaviour; variable ability think abstractly.	Abstract thinking achieved by most but not all.
<i>IDENTITY</i>	Self-concept changing from child to adult; awkward and shy in social situations; authority figures looked to for guidance.	Preoccupation with self and own concerns; moodiness; limited social skills; authority figures viewed as threats to autonomy.	Ability to appreciate others' needs and feelings; authority figures viewed as equals.

Adapted from: Maternal Child Nursing -Vol. 11, Number 6. November-December, 1986. page 339. Care of Postpartum Adolescents by Suzanne A Fuller.