CHARACTERISTIC BEHAVIORS OF ADOLESCENCE

	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE
	Transition to adolescence Characterized by puberty	Essence of adolescence Strong peer group influence	Transition to adulthood Take on adult roles
AUTONOMY	• Challenge authority, family; anti-parent • Loneliness • Wide mood swings • Things of childhood rejected • Argumentative & disobedient • Desires more privacy	• Family conflicts predominate due to ambivalence about emerging independence	• Emancipation--to vocational/technical/ college and/or work (easy); to adult life-style (hard)
BODY IMAGE	• Preoccupation with physical changes and critical of appearance • Anxieties about menstruation, wet dreams, masturbation, breast or penis size	• Less concern about bodily image, but increased interest in making it more attractive • Excessive physical activity alternating with lethargy	• Usually comfortable with body image
PEER GROUP	• Serves developmental purpose • Intense friendship with same sex • Contact with opposite sex in groups	• Strong peer allegiances--fad behavior • Sexual drives emerge and they begin to explore ability to date and attract a partner	• Decisions/values less influenced by peers • Relates to individuals more than to peer group • Selection of partner based on individual preference
IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT	• "Am I Normal?" • *Daydreaming* • Vocational goals change frequently • Begin to develop own value system • Emerging sexual feelings and sexual exploration • Imaginary audience • Desire for more privacy • Magnify own problems; "no one understands"	• Experimentation--sex, *drugs, friends, jobs, risk-*taking behaviors • More realistic vocational goals. Begin to realize strengths and limitations • Increased intellectual ability and creativity	• Pursue realistic vocational *goals with training or* actual career employment • Relate to family as adult • Realization of own limitations, & mortality • Establishment of sexual identity, sexual activity is more common • Establishment of ethical & moral value system • More capable of intimate, complex relationships • Understand consequences of behavior