



Adolescence

Chapter Ten: Intimacy


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Outline/Overview

- Theoretical perspectives
 - Sullivan
 - Erikson
 - Attachment perspective
- Development of Adolescent Intimacy
- Intimacy and Psychosocial Development

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Intimacy: Harry Stack Sullivan

- Developmental progression of needs:
 - contact and for tenderness
 - adult participation
 - peers and peer acceptance
 - intimacy
 - sexual contact and intimacy-opposite-sex peer
 - integration into adult society

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Intimacy: Erik Erikson

- Crisis: Intimacy vs. Isolation
 - In a truly intimate relationship, two individuals' identities fuse
 - Neither person's identity is lost

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Intimacy: Attachment Perspective

- A strong and enduring emotional bond
- An internal working model developed during childhood
- Anxiously attached infants carry problems into childhood and beyond
- Adult attachment interview used to assess in adolescents and adults

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Development of Adolescent Intimacy

- Changes in the Nature of Friendship
- Companionship appears before adolescence
- Intimacy emerges later
- Conflicts that adolescents have with friends

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● ● ● | **Development of Adolescent Intimacy**

- Changes in the Display of Intimacy
- More knowledgeable about their friends
- More responsive to close friends
- Friends become more interpersonally sensitive & empathic
- Resolve conflicts by negotiation or disengagement

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● ● ● | **Development of Adolescent Intimacy**

- Sex Differences in Intimacy
- Girls' relationships are more intimate than boys'
- New targets of intimacy are added to old ones
- Different types of intimate relationships with parents and peers
 - Parent-adolescent relationships
 - Adolescent peer relationships

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● ● ● | **Intimacy and Psychosocial Development**

- Friends as a sounding board
- Friends provide advice
- Contribute to adolescents' self-esteem
- Can lead to too much introspection and self-consciousness

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