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In the area of *Intellectual Development*, young adolescents:

- Display a wide range of individual intellectual development
- Are in a transition period from concrete thinking to abstract thinking
- Are intensely curious and have a wide range of intellectual pursuits, few of which are sustained
- Prefer active over passive learning experiences
- Prefer interaction with peers during learning activities
- Respond positively to opportunities to participate in real life situations
- Are often preoccupied with self
- Have a strong need for approval and may be easily discouraged
- Develop an increasingly better understanding of personal abilities
- Are inquisitive about adults, often challenging their authority, and always observing them
- May show disinterest in conventional academic subjects but are intellectually curious about the world and themselves
- Are developing a capacity to understand higher levels of humor