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

- Are generally idealistic, desiring to make the world a better place and to become socially useful
- Are in transition from moral reasoning which focuses on “what’s in for me” to that which considers the feelings and rights of others
- Often show compassion from those who are downtrodden or suffering and have special concern for animals and the environmental problems that our world faces
- Are moving from acceptance of adult moral judgments to development of their own personal values; nevertheless, they tend to embrace values consonant with those of their parents
- Rely on parents/significant adults for advice with major decisions
- Increasingly assess moral matters in shades of grey as opposed to viewing them in black and white terms characteristic of younger children
- At times are quick to see flaws in others but miss their own faults
- Owing to their lack of experience are often impatient with the pace of change, underestimating the difficulties in making desired social changes
- Are capable of and value experiences with participatory democracy
- Need the influence of adult role models who will listen and affirm their moral consciousness and actions
- Are increasingly aware of and concerned about inconsistencies between values exhibited by adults and the conditions they see in society