

Defining the Adolescent Mind. The adolescent mind is a mind that is less concerned with reason. Its concerns are of self and obtaining what it desires and the “time horizon of consideration” is that of the short-term. Left “untreated” the adolescent can “mature” into the narcissist, where reasoning is obsessive and limited to a self-absorbed incomplete view of the world. The “autistic” child is likely not to experience adolescence to the same degree (depth) as the “non-connective” child; however, the “autistic” may experience his or her own form of adolescence for a greater length of time. This view should be seen in moderation with respect to the aforementioned, understanding that development is a continuum, and that a portion of the population will only mature to a certain degree largely determined by the sociological environment in which he or she lives.

Creating Opportunity. The difficulty in treating the adolescent is that adolescence is a natural phase of development ideally leading to full development (development related to the hierarchy of needs) through experience culminating with a highly developed ability to reason (reasoning that is beyond self and can accept the world as is related to choice). Therefore choice also becomes a mechanism of learning that helps a person develop in terms of maturity. This consequently challenges the parental figure to guide this process in terms of minimizing catastrophic error while providing an opportunity to develop; modeling behavior (the accepted norm) plays an important role in such development.

Mature Market: *A market that has reached a state of equilibrium marked by the reliance on past significant growth and requires significant innovation for continued growth.*

Tips from Ron. In terms teaching development, often what is most needed to connect with the adolescent (be heard) is a degree of “immaturity”, this is largely due to the fact that the young adult will not respond to one seen as the authority figure. Yet the challenge for the adult, in the process of connecting, is not to undermine his or her own “parental authority” (wisdom and justice) while communicating a “principled clue” that can be developed by the adolescent. This process must always have an eye towards the future, after all, as everybody knows, there is nothing more to know after one reaches the age of 12 or at least not much that is heard between the ages of 13 and 30.

The Paradox of Parenting & After I am 21 (See Connectionism). Although, if the youth is wise, he or she will see that there is a tactical advantage to being more “mature” than their parents (knowing where trouble lies, avoiding such things and communicating an understanding of their parents value system). However, this approach is one of the more difficult objectives in “outwitting” the developmental cycle, as having the will to avoid all the pitfalls of adolescence may be beyond one’s own ability (the human condition); this approach may have the adverse effect best expressed in terms of dieting (i.e. “demand deficit disorder” related to “consumption shocks”). Ultimately the youth will need strong negotiating skills to accomplish and maintain a respectful order related to harmonious relationship with all concerned.

Not all one thing or another and Contextual Awareness. Many times one will find “adolescent characteristics” in fully mature adults as they encounter the new and unfamiliar, however, as a person gains experience with such situations or environments, the adolescent traits diminish related to the new context. Nevertheless, many of the thought processes related to long-term “self” interest may have much in common with a serious demeanor, yet the intensity of these attributes will diminish as a sense of security is developed and the parent realizes that the adolescent has found a growth path (the path to adulthood) that leads to self-sufficiency and autonomy. Consequently one has developed an understanding that maturity does not necessarily equate to having a “serious nature” and the individual now comprehends that maturity has more in common with the ability to make wise choices.