

confidentiality. Nurses need to know and understand the state and federal consent and confidentiality laws pertaining to adolescent circumstances, such as suspected abuse, alcohol or other drug use, suicidal or homicidal ideation, contraceptive care, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual assault ([Broner, Embry, Gremminger, et al, 2013](#)).

Another dilemma in interviewing adolescents is that two views of a problem frequently exist: the teenager's and the parents'. Clarification of the problem is a major task. However, providing both parties an opportunity to discuss their perceptions in an open and unbiased atmosphere can, by itself, be therapeutic. Demonstrating positive communication skills can help families with adolescents to communicate more effectively (see [Nursing Care Guidelines](#) box).

Nursing Care Guidelines

Communicating with Adolescents

Build a Foundation

Spend time together.

Encourage expression of ideas and feelings.

Respect their views.

Tolerate differences.

Praise good points.

Respect their privacy.

Set a good example.

Communicate Effectively

Give undivided attention.

Listen, listen, listen.