

have an open, nonjudgmental, non-dictatorial manner. They demonstrate that they are available and willing to listen to their teenagers. However, they also wait until the teenager opens the discussion, and then they listen attentively and allow the teen to explore issues.

3. The nursing priority in this situation is to have the mother become more aware that Jeremy is not likely to discuss his concerns on a timetable and that it is important for her to respect his point of view. Although Jeremy wants his mother's guidance and support, he does not want to be told what to do, and he needs an opportunity to express his own feelings and views. An example of appropriate advice to give Jeremy's mother might be: "Be open and available to Jeremy. Tell him what you think but *not what to do*."

4. Yes, the information about how teens formulate a personal identity and the principles of effective parent communication allow the nurse to formulate this response.

## Discussing Sexual Orientation With Adolescents

1. Evidence: No, there are insufficient data to arrive at a conclusion about John's sexual orientation. Further discussion with him is necessary before making any assumptions.

2. Assumptions:

a. Studies of gay men and lesbians indicate that adolescence is the time when individuals become aware of same-sex attraction. Homosexual and bisexual youths are at risk for health-damaging behaviors, such as early initiation of sexual behavior, substance abuse, suicide, and running