

be ignored or criticized by peers creates feelings of inferiority, inadequacy, and incompetence.



FIG 15-5 Teenagers like to gather in small groups. (©2011 [Photos.com](https://www.photos.com/), a division of Getty Images. All rights reserved.)

Work

For the majority of young people in the United States, the workplace becomes a fourth microsystem. Most adolescents are employed in an array of jobs as restaurant workers, cashiers, sales clerks, clerical assistants, and unskilled laborers. The jobs tend to require little initiative or decision making and rarely use skills learned in school. Adolescent work may negatively affect development as it fails to link adolescents to vocational mentors, is not intellectually stimulating, may take time away from other activities that could contribute to identity development, can lead to fatigue, decreased interest in school, and poorer grades. These detrimental effects are likely to affect adolescents who work more than 20 hours a week.

Interests and Activities

Adolescents spend a large amount of time engaged in leisure-time activities. These leisure-time activities move from being family centered to being peer centered. In addition to providing teenagers with fun and enjoyment, leisure-time activities assist in the