

Teenage Peer Influence

Peer identification and acceptance become more important during adolescence. Peers are a major influence in a teen's daily life. This social group often replaces family members as teens socialize with others outside the home. Peer groups offer a supportive social network for adolescents struggling with self-identity and independence.

Relationships with family

- Physical and emotional distance from family
- Strained economics encourages financial and emotional support from peers
- Increase in conflicts
- Frequent emotional outburst

Forms of peer acceptance

- Name calling
- Labeling
- Belonging to group / gang
- Informal socialization patterns / group dating

Peer-identified social status

- Cool
- Baller
- Sporty
- Skank
- Brainy
- Nerdy
- Home boy/girl
- Geek
- Loser
- Ethnic crowd
- Drop out
- Working
- Hoochie mama
- Hood rat

Sources:

Adolescence and peer pressure. www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/family/pf211.htm

Teen peer influence. www.teenadvice.about.com