

# THE MYSTERIOUS MAZE OF THE TEEN BRAIN

---

Understanding Teen  
Development

# Types of Development

---



- Physical
- Interpersonal
- Mental/Intellectual
- Faith
- Values & Ethics
- Sexuality
- Vocation

# Major Attributes of Teens

Rapid Physical Growth	Abstract Thinking Begins	Importance of Peers
Sexual Encounters	"Me" in the Center	Emerging world view
Energy/Risks	Idealism	Stability related to Family

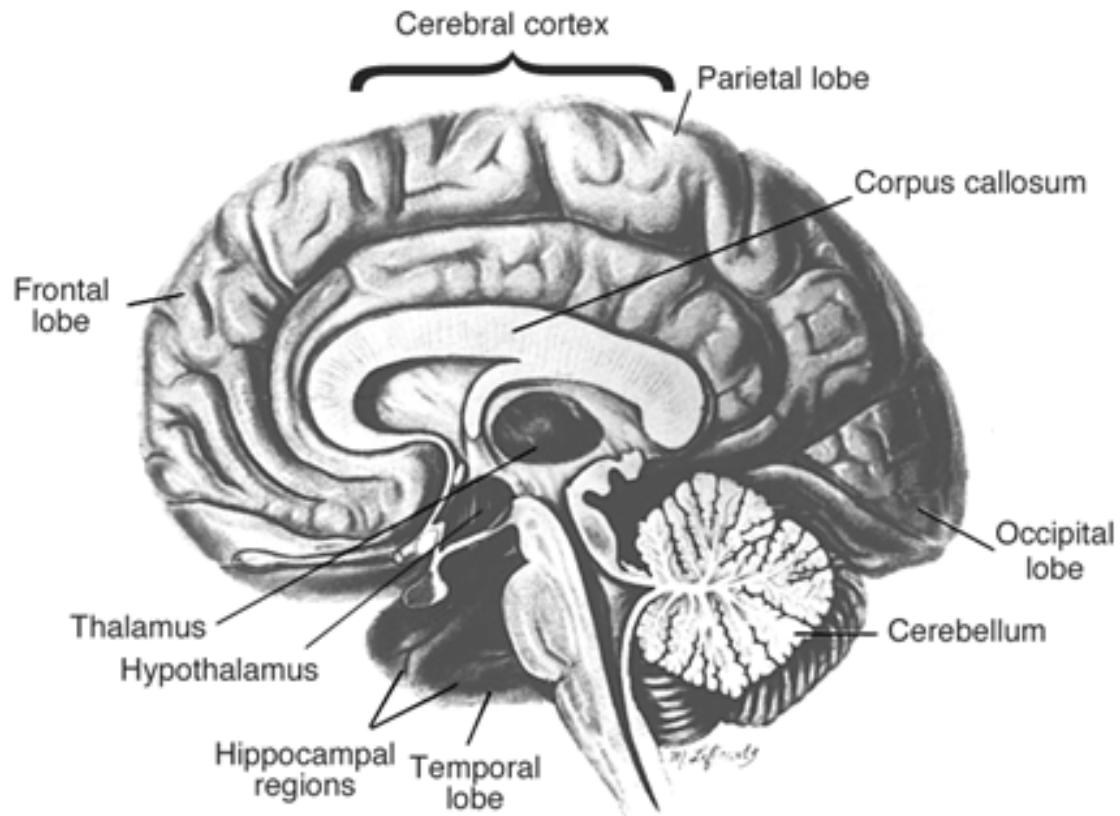
# Brain Research

---

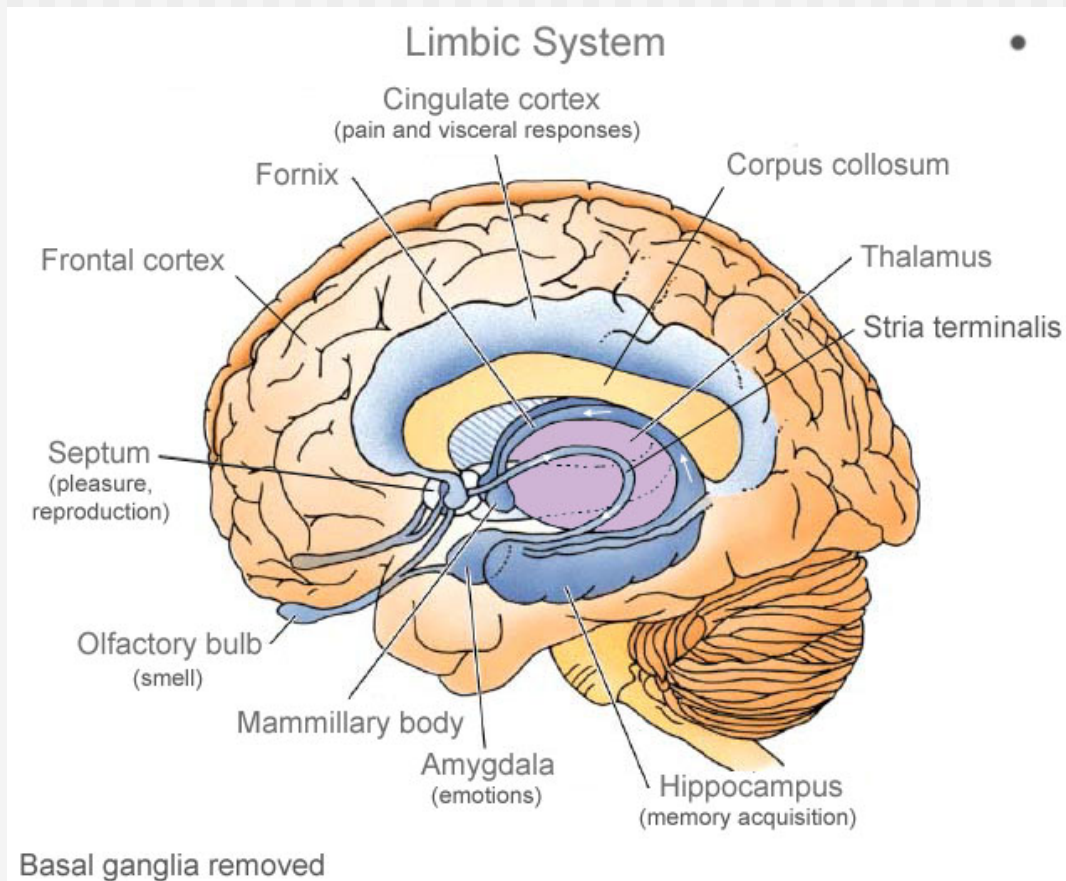
- Importance of Environment – context matters!
- Need for Active Experiences
- How youth feel is as important as how they think



# Brain



# Limbic System



# Gender Differences

---



- Larger in childhood; diminish as we age
- Learning differences are related to brain development
- Differences in friendships

# Gender Differences

---

- Direction giving/understanding
- Hearing differences
- Sight differences

# Gender Differences

---

- Learning preferences differ by gender
- Games with physical contact or words
- Solving problems

# Common Needs

---

- A group to belong to
- Forums for thinking & reasoning
- Continued activity
- Adult friends other than parents
- Family standing with them

# Faith in the Teen Years

---



- Nonconformists/ conformists
- God as friend
- Questions about call
- I believe/I don't believe
- Part of something larger than self – what is it?
- Clear/not clear

# Implications for Faith Formation & Church

---

- Importance of Family Ministry
- Need for “Good Risks”
- Need for active learning
- Need for gender-specific opportunities

