Many parents look at their teenagers and ask themselves, “Will my sweet child ever grow up?” They are now able to communicate with and always want to be with their friends. In many ways, teenagers seem able to make responsible decisions. But, the next thing you know, they and their friends have gone to the wrong place at the wrong time and made some surprising decisions.

This is normal adolescence. Adolescence is a period of life when changes happen throughout the body that affect the way teens observe the world. Hormones are rising and falling, and new brain changes are occurring.

During this time, the brain changes a lot and it is in ways they find exciting and engage in activities to which they may have had little exposure.

Many studies have shown that parents are not discouraged if their teens appear to care less about how they look and are more accepting and affected by what adults say. We can’t change the rules of the teens in our lives, but we need to do so with a calm tone as they are hypersensitive to emotions.

If your teen is interested in participating, please call Marilyn at phone by 412-383-5439 or by e-mail at ambrosiam@upmc.edu.

Child Brain Development. Families will be paid and will be given free parking or bus passes. Both initiating and non-initiating children are welcome to participate. If your child is interested in participating, please call 412-383-5439 or e-mail childbraindev.upmc.edu.

A little boy plays a computer game while his brain activity is monitored.

All teens can do risky things, especially if they are inexperienced or not sure how to avoid them. Some research studies have shown that even the most self-controlled teens get themselves into serious trouble. They might go to a party where there were drugs and alcohol.

Research studies show that the parts of the brain that are in charge of making decisions and thinking about consequences are important for teens. We know that when teens are told they are being watched, their brain changes are not yet permanent. The teens that have done risky things have a hard time paying attention to mistakes.

These findings will help us to understand brain development and to help teens grow up healthier and happier by learning about the brain.

What changes occur in the brain during adolescence? What is different from other times of life? Why do teens tend to make poor and get in trouble? Why does mental illness appear to occur at this time of life? Dr. Beatriz Luna, an expert in the field of neurodevelopment, directs the Laboratory of Neurocognitive Development at the University of Pittsburgh. She is interested in how the brain changes occur in the brain during adolescence and how these changes occur in people who tend to develop emotional problems. She is also interested in how these changes occur in children who tend to develop emotional problems.

Researchers at the Laboratory of Neurocognitive Development investigate how the brain works by having teens and adults rest comfortably in a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine while they play simple computer games. MRI is used all over the world to understand how a person thinks and picture the brain. Participants are asked to do two things in a game where they are asked to look at a circle on a computer screen and decide whether to look at it or not. Pictures are taken of their brain to show what parts of the brain do these computer games.

Researchers at the Laboratory of Neurocognitive Development are interested in finding out how the changes that occur in the brain during adolescence affect the behavior of people who tend to develop emotional problems. They want to find out if the changes that occur in the brain during adolescence affect the behavior of people who tend to develop emotional problems.

Researchers at the Laboratory of Neurocognitive Development have found that teenagers who have a hard time paying attention to mistakes are more likely to make mistakes when they are told that they are being watched. This is normal adolescence. Adolescence is a period of life when changes happen throughout the body that affect the way teens observe the world. Hormones are rising and falling, and new brain changes are occurring.

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