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Chapter 11: Question 25

Family are thought to contribute to the influence of identity formation to an adolescent's individuality and connectedness as parents are important figures. Individuality consists of two variables, self assertion and separateness. Self assertion is the ability to to possess a point of view and separateness is the ability to communicate different ideas from others while using expressive patterns. Connectedness also consists of two variables: mutuality and permeability. Mutuality being the sensitivity to and respect for other people's views and permeability, the open mindedness to accept other people's views. These two factors being individuality and connectedness are thought to be the influence of identity formation through family. In addition, attachment to the parents may inspire identity development in adolescents as they experience individuality that is permitted and accepted by the parents. All in all, family contribution has a tremendous influence on identity formation primarily because it has one of the first relationships that are made is with the parents.