### Human Sexual Development . . . The Lifeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fertilization</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>2Years</th>
<th>4Years</th>
<th>Puberty</th>
<th>Young Adulthood</th>
<th>Middle Adulthood</th>
<th>Elder Adulthood</th>
<th>Death</th>
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</table>

#### TEN ASPECTS:

1. **Gender**
   - Chromosomally determined
   - Visible by 6-8wks, gestation
   - Secondary sexual characteristics develop (ages 9-18)
   - Some secondary sex characteristics diminish with age

2. **Gender Identity**
   - Developing (firmly established by ages 2 or 3, doesn’t usually evolve)

3. **Gender Role**
   - Developing (firmly established by 3-4, though flexible throughout life)

4. **Gender Orientation**
   - Present? Developing? (experts disagree)
   - Probably firm by age 9, if not birth but somewhat flexible throughout life
   - Crushes/feelings begin to be recognized during puberty or adolescence for most males and adolescence or young adulthood for most females
   - One’s orientation varies somewhat during lifetime, but rarely changes from one extreme to the other

5. **Sexual Behavior**
   - Begins at birth with breastfeeding, followed soon by masturbation in most babies, often continues (including touch with a partner at some point, for most people) throughout life, with periods of abstinence lasting days, weeks, years, even decades . . . . . may continue until death