

**INTRODUCTION**

This guide has been prepared to help parents who are supervising the private practice of a learner driver who has just a few hours' driving experience.

When supervising a learner driver you must be over 21 and have held a full driving licence for a minimum of three years. As a supervisor, to stay within the law, the same rules apply to you as to your child when they're driving. **This means:**



- » Don't use your mobile phone
- » Always wear a seatbelt
- » Wear glasses if you need to
- » Stay awake and alert at all times
- » Don't drink any alcohol before getting into the car

**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**

If your child has had just a few hours of professional instruction, they're probably still getting to grips with co-ordinating the controls of the car. At this stage they'll be trying to master their clutch control and they'll probably be taking their eyes off the road every time they change gear. As a result you may need to keep things simple for them, **which means:**



- » Stay away from busy roads
- » Keep the speed right down
- » Be on the look out for hazards that they may not have spotted
- » Avoid practising in poor weather
- » Stay away from roads with lots of things going on, such as junctions, traffic lights, roundabouts, filter lanes and so forth.

*Focus on:***COCK PIT DRILL**

Before setting off any driver should get into the habit of ensuring the car is set up for the forthcoming journey. **That means ensuring the:**



- » Doors are all properly closed
- » Seat is correctly positioned
- » Head restraints are set properly
- » Steering wheel is adjusted
- » Mirrors are set up correctly

You'll also need to ensure everyone is wearing their seatbelt, there are no warning lights illuminating on the dashboard and also that the car has enough fuel.

**MOVING AWAY AND STOPPING**

Once the cockpit drill is out of the way it's time to get moving. An experienced driver will just jump into a car and go, but an inexperienced learner will need time to think about starting off. They'll need to think about using their mirrors, co-ordinating the pedals as they release the handbrake and steering smoothly so they're positioned on the road correctly at all time.

Because your child has so little experience of driving you need to ensure they're under as little pressure as possible. If necessary, you need to drive the car to a quiet area for them to practise - once you've made sure that you're insured to drive it of course. When you're in a safe place for them to practise their techniques:



- » Allow them to feel how the car reacts to their inputs with the accelerator and steering.
- » With the handbrake on, let them find the clutch biting point.
- » Let them release the handbrake and move off slowly in first gear. You and they need to ensure that it's safe all round to move off, and make sure the indicator is used if necessary, before the car sets off.
- » After you've been moving for a little while, get your child to slow gently, so they can get a feel for the car's brakes.
- » As they drive at low speed, stay aware of what's happening all around. At this stage you'll need to help with identifying hazards.
- » Keep the speeds low for now. Focus on keeping your distance from parked cars, looking out for hazards and using the car's controls in a smooth, co-ordinated manner.
- » Focus on starting off, driving for a bit, then pulling in where it's safe, legal and convenient to do so. At this stage it's all about getting to grips with the clutch, brakes, accelerator while remaining aware of what's happening all around.



**Don't forget!**

When supervising always remain aware of what's going on all around, so you can alert the driver of any hazards