

# The **PARENT'S** Supervised Driving Program

For the parents of teen drivers —  
a requirement for teen licensing

A PROGRAM OF THE IDAHO STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND  
IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



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**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** ★

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# Idaho public driver education



The Idaho Driver Education program is dedicated to providing our students with the tools and skills necessary to become safer drivers. This is accomplished by hiring highly qualified professional educators as instructors and using standards-based proven curriculum. The primary purpose of driver education is to provide beginning drivers with a foundation to become competent and responsible users of the highway transportation system. This foundation is designed to help new drivers continue to improve with experience.



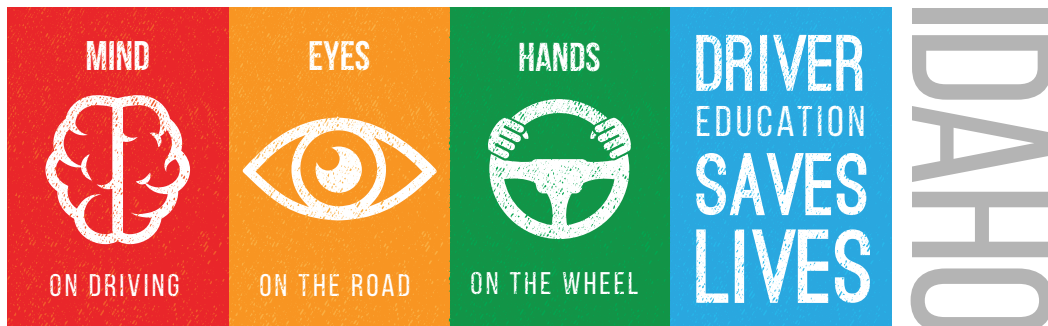
**Taylor Sauer** I can't discuss this matter now. Driving and facebooking is not safe! Haha  
January 14 at 8:48pm • [Like](#)

*January 14, 2012 changed the lives of everyone in the Sauer family. That night Taylor Sauer chose to text and drive and was killed when she hit the back of a tanker truck. She made the Facebook post above during her final minutes alive. Her choice affected not only her but all the loved ones she left behind. As a family, we have shared her story with thousands hoping that others will understand how one choice to text and drive can leave lasting scars. That choice made her miss out on such important events in our family – weddings, births and day to day living. We miss her smile, her laugh and her hugs. Please think about the ones you love and how heartbroken they would be if you missed out on the big moments in their life.*

**Put it down**  
Don't let your **SEND** be the end

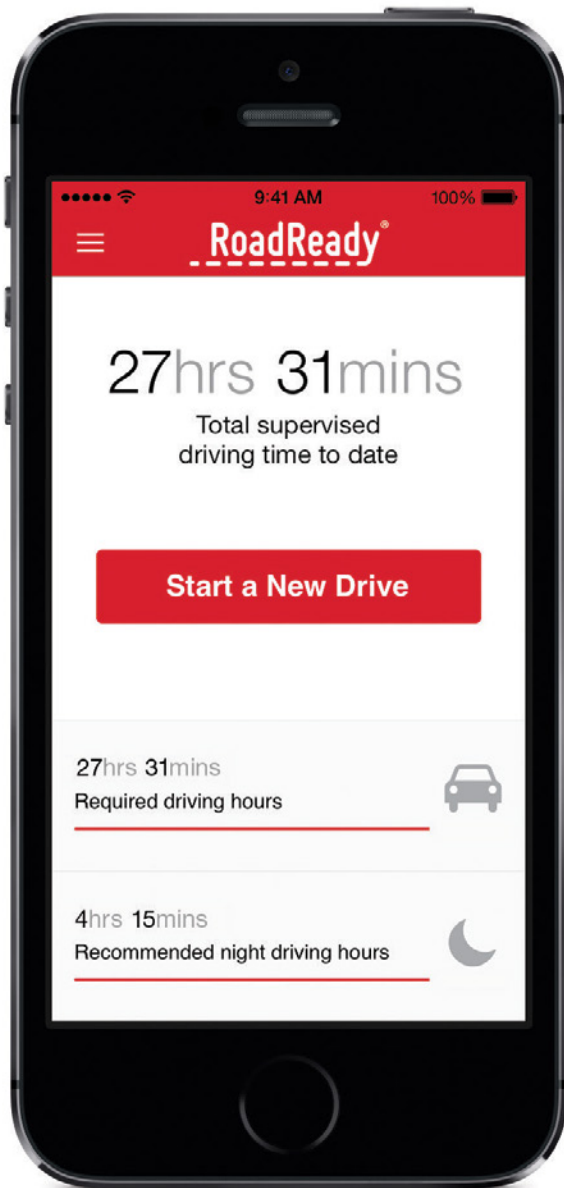


- Taylor Sauer's Family  
Clay and Shauna Sauer (parents), Josh (Whitney), Ethan (Rachel), Hudson (Kylee) and Emerson (her siblings) and Liam Taylor (nephew)





# LOG YOUR DRIVES. FOCUS ON YOUR TEEN.



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A component of the **PARENT'S**  Supervised Driving Program

# Sponsor Message

It seems like you blink, and the next thing you know, that little kid is a teenager getting their driver's license photo taken. It's a milestone you'll always remember, and one where the emotions of parenthood — pride, anticipation, worry and more — all come together.

State Farm® understands motor vehicle injuries are one of our country's most important public health problems. In fact, car crashes are a leading cause of death among teens, and the first few months of unsupervised driving are the most dangerous.<sup>1</sup> As the nation's leading auto insurer,<sup>2</sup> State Farm has been an integral part of landmark teen driver research to help us and others understand how so many of these car crashes can be avoided. It's why we're involved with *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program*, and why we've made significant, long-term investments in research and programs to help teens adjust to their newfound freedom.

Teen drivers need and want their parents involved in their development. We encourage you to read this program guide and know the example you set makes a difference in your teen's safety.

State Farm and our 19,000 agents across the country are here to help. Together, we want to make this milestone one to celebrate for your family.

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen\\_drivers/](https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.statefarm.com/about-us/company-overview/company-profile/fast-facts>



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# ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ★

A Message to Parents and Guardians,

We understand that raising a child is a series of first steps. Some come with excitement and others with trepidation. Leading any young person into the world of driving is full of excitement, apprehension, and teamwork that will result in another skilled driver on the roads of the great State of Idaho.

We at the Idaho Army National Guard would like to congratulate and support you as you prepare them to join us on our streets and highways. Partnering with this program is a way for us to help you help your student-driver prepare for this next step in their independence.

Having their license means more than just an excited teen willing to make grocery runs for you and tee-ball pickups for younger siblings. Like every new responsibility in life, it comes with some risk, but we in the Idaho Army National Guard understand risk management in both our training and our operations. It is our hope that with the use of this guide, your teen will be fully prepared for this newly acquired independence.

In the Idaho Army National Guard, our mission is to serve the state in times of natural disasters like fires, floods, and snow removal. When called upon, we also have the opportunity to serve around the world in times of need. Most of us serve part-time while building our careers, pursuing higher education, and raising our families. When you see our uniform, know that we are your neighbors, coworkers, and classmates, here to protect the community we call home. Partnering with this program is another way we can support our beautiful state and teach our young drivers to be safe and vigilant at all times.

Our best wishes are with you and your new driver as you lead them in their next step toward adulthood. It is truly our honor to serve you and the entire state of Idaho.

Idaho Army National Guard

**LIVE HERE. WORK HERE. SERVE HERE.**

## About this program

Developed by Safe Roads Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to promoting safer driving through education for drivers of all ages, *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* is designed to improve teen driver safety by providing parents and guardians with a methodical approach to teaching the requisite driving skills. Each lesson concentrates on a particular sequential skill. Parents are in the best position to help their teens become safe, smart, and skilled drivers.

*The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* also includes a website, social media pages, and a mobile app, RoadReady®.

**Publisher:** Safe Roads Alliance -  
info@saferoadsalliance.org

**Illustrator:** Lou Eisenman

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The

# PARENT'S

## Supervised Driving Program

# Welcome parents of teen drivers!

*The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* is a resource for parents to utilize when teaching their teen to drive.

1. This program is divided into core driving skills.



- Read through each section at home before your teen starts a new skill.

2. Log your driving time. This can be done 2 ways:



- Carry this printed guide with you during the drive and use the printed log section – you or your teen can log the supervised driving hours once the drive is finished.



- Download and use the free  **RoadReady**® app to track your driving time. RoadReady tracks your teen's driving hours until you reach the state requirements.

3. Turn in your log when applying for your license.

## Stay Connected with Us!

Follow *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* for expert driving articles, program launch events and additional safety resources.



**Facebook**

www.facebook.com/  
TheParentsSupervisedDrivingProgram



**Twitter**

www.twitter.com/PSDP\_Info



**Instagram**

www.instagram.com/roadreadyapp



This program is also available online at:

# PSDPonline.com

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## Your opinion matters

Take our program survey and tell us about your experience.

[www.theparentssuperviseddrivingprogram.com/survey.html](http://www.theparentssuperviseddrivingprogram.com/survey.html)





## LOOK TWICE FOR MOTORCYCLES!

[www.idahostar.org](http://www.idahostar.org) 1-888-280-7827

### DID YOU KNOW?

About 50% of motorcycle crashes involve another car.

**Don't be one of  
those drivers.**

The Idaho STAR Motorcycle Safety Program encourages all drivers to share the road. When a car and a motorcycle crash, two things are almost certain:

1. The driver says "I didn't see the motorcycle!"
2. The rider is injured (or worse).



Idaho Office of Highway Safety presents

### THE MOST IMPORTANT 4½ HOURS OF A YOUNG DRIVER'S LIFE

Alive at 25 is a 4½ hour driver's awareness course developed by the National Safety Council. The class is presented by law enforcement and offered at no cost for those aged 15–24 years. It focuses on driver awareness and passenger behavior. Topics include:

- Distractions
- Inexperience
- Lack of awareness of risky behaviors & consequences
- Impaired driving
- Speeding
- Driving as a social activity

**IT CAN TAKE**

**MORE THAN ONE MILE**

**TO STOP A TRAIN.** ★ ★ ★

**See Tracks? Think Train!**



[SeeTracksThinkTrain.org](http://SeeTracksThinkTrain.org)



**95%**

**OF ALL RAIL-RELATED DEATHS INVOLVE  
DRIVERS GOING THROUGH A CROSSING OR A  
PERSON ON THE TRACKS.**



**See Tracks? Think Train!**



[SeeTracksThinkTrain.org](http://SeeTracksThinkTrain.org)



## About supervising teen drivers

*The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* gives you a simple, easy-to-follow plan you can use to help your teen be a safe and responsible driver.

Some thoughts as you begin this exciting experience together:

**Make an effort to enjoy the learning process:** Driving is a big step toward independence, and your teen is entering a new phase of life. You'll both remember this experience for years to come. Make it a good memory!

**Practice makes perfect:** Studies show that the risk of a crash diminishes with experience. The more time you can spend driving with your teen, the less likely it is they'll crash when they begin driving alone. Driving in a variety of circumstances is equally important. While using this program, you should drive on all types of roads. Make sure your teen gets exposure to a variety of roadways, and in different conditions as well: at night; in rain, fog, and snow; and in heavy and light traffic.

**Be a driving role model:** It's not enough to say, "Do as I say." Children imitate their parents'/guardians' behavior, so your driving should set a good example for your teen to emulate. Be sure that you:

- Obey all traffic laws.
- Correct any unsafe driving habits (driving aggressively, rolling through stop signs, accelerating through yellow lights, speeding, etc.).
- Refrain from using your cell phone or texting while driving.
- Always wear your seat belt, and remind your teen that buckling up is the law. This will need to be an ongoing conversation - buckle up every trip, every time.

### Tips for teaching your teen

- **Seat belts** must always be worn properly by **everyone** in the vehicle.
- **Before each session**, discuss the goals of the day's lesson.
- **Before each new lesson**, review what was learned during the previous lesson.
- **Keep instructions simple and concise.** Say where to go and what action to take. For example: "Drive to the corner and turn right."
- **The feedback** you give should be calm, precise, and immediate. Be patient and alert at all times. Remember to give positive feedback when your teen succeeds!
- **When your teen makes a mistake**, which will happen often, do not criticize. Remain calm and simply repeat the maneuver until it's done correctly. To minimize their frustration, emphasize to your teen that mistakes are a normal part of learning.
- **These lessons should be consistent** with what is taught by your teen's driving instructor. If you teach something differently, your teen will be confused and learning will be more difficult. If the lessons in this program are different from the instructor's, contact them to clarify the discrepancy.
- **Remember that students learn at different paces.** Make sure your teen has mastered each skill before you move on to the next lesson, even if that means repeating a lesson several times. Patience and practice will pay off in the long run.
- **Integrate night driving** into as many lessons as possible.

Most importantly, make sure the vehicle you use for training is safe. Confirm that the brakes have been recently inspected, and check to make sure the tires have sufficient tread depth. It's generally recommended that you do not train in larger vehicles that lack stability control.

### Check your emotions

At the start of each driving lesson with your teen, leave your problems behind — and make an effort to stay focused. Don't bring up touchy subjects such as grades, homework, boyfriends/girlfriends, and anything else that might distract either of you from the task at hand.

# Vehicle control for supervisors

Teaching a new driver can be stressful, but knowing you have some control can help. Professional driver's education instructors are taught emergency responses to potential hazards that can crop up with an inexperienced driver behind the wheel. Here are some skills you can learn to help you maintain control from the passenger seat while teaching:



**Emergency shifting:** In a quiet, large, level, empty area, practice shifting the transmission from drive to neutral.



**Taking the wheel:** With an experienced driver in the driver's seat, in a quiet, large, level, empty area, practice steering the car with your left hand from the passenger seat.



**Mirrors:** Adjust the mirror on the passenger sun visor so you can use it as a rearview mirror. If the right side mirror is properly adjusted, you can use it to monitor traffic to the rear from the passenger seat.



**Awareness:** Never assume everything is okay. Always check and re-check mirrors before you give instructions to your teen.



**Emergency stopping:** Practice stopping the car with the parking brake (if your vehicle's parking brake is located between the seats). This can be dangerous, even at low speeds, and should only be used as a last resort.

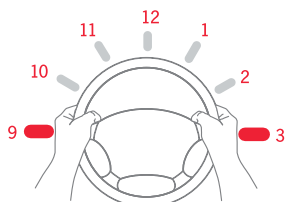
## Driving has changed

Chances are, today's cars are not the same as they were when you learned to drive. To teach your teen effectively, you need to know about a few important recent changes in how cars work, how we drive, and how driving is taught.

**Anti-lock Brake System (ABS):** Most newer cars offer ABS as standard equipment. ABS is a dramatic safety improvement that works by letting the tires rotate, rather than lock up, when the brake is engaged. This allows drivers to turn the car in an emergency stop. ABS should be used with firm, continuous pressure. The brakes may shake and grind when applied, which often concerns users – but this is a normal function of ABS. To find out if your car has ABS, check the instrument panel after you turn on the ignition or read the owner's manual.

*Note: When driving a car without ABS, the old rules still apply. Don't "slam" the brakes. Rather, press the brake pedal firmly. The intention is to stop quickly, but also to avoid locking the brakes and skidding. Skidding causes a loss of control and requires more distance to stop.*

Check out this website for additional information: <https://mycardoeswhat.org/safety-features/>



Arms holding the wheel at 9 and 3 o'clock are not as likely to be hit by the air bag.

**Air bags:** Air bags are designed to work with seat belts, which must be worn for the air bags to be effective. The use of a safety belt allows the driver to stay behind the wheel in order to take advantage of the airbag. Since air bags deploy out of the wheel on impact, it's important to keep your hands and arms in the recommended position.

**Steering wheel hand position:** Most of us were taught to position our hands at 10 and 2 o'clock on the steering wheel. It's now suggested that you hold the wheel at 9 and 3 o'clock. This gives you better vehicle control and also lessens the risk of injury if the airbag was to deploy.

## Commentary driving

Commentary driving is a great communication tool. Coach your teen to describe their actions, thoughts and observations out loud as they drive, similar to a sports commentator. Throughout the learning process, ask them to verbalize what they see around them, including potential risks and any steps they need to take to avoid those risks.

## Distracted driving and more

Distracted driving involves any activity that takes the driver's attention away from the primary task of driving. Distracted driving, impairment, speeding, and not wearing seat belts are all risky choices that can lead to serious injury and death. Teens, who are still learning the complex skills of driving, are particularly susceptible to distractions while behind the wheel. Don't let you or your teen become another statistic. Here are the facts:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Mile for mile, teens ages 16-19 are involved in 3 times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers. And 1 in 3 teens who text say they have done so while driving.
- According to NHTSA, 3,142 people were killed in 2019 in distraction-related crashes nationwide, with teens having the highest rate of distracted driving crashes involving a fatality.
- A Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study revealed that physically dialing a phone while driving increases the risk of a crash as much as 6 times. Texting is riskier still, increasing collision risk by 23 times.
- As stated in the 2019 Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 48.1% of High School students reported they texted or emailed while driving a car.
- A recent AAA study shows that when a teen driver is carrying teen passengers, the fatality rate for occupants of other cars increases 56 percent; for pedestrians and cyclists it increases 17 percent; and for the teen driver, the fatality rate increases 45 percent.

To combat this growing epidemic, we suggest the following:

- **Set a good example:** Kids observe and learn from their parents. Put your phone away while driving and only use it when you are safely pulled over. According to the Pew Research Center, 40 percent of teens aged 12 to 17 say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put themselves and others in danger.
- **Talk to your teen:** Discuss the risks and responsibilities of driving and the danger of dividing their attention between a phone call and the road. Show them the statistics related to distracted driving and urge them to share what they learn with their friends. Encourage them to speak up if they are a passenger in a car with a distracted driver.
- **Establish ground rules:** Set up family rules about not using the phone or other electronic devices while behind the wheel. Enforce the limits set by the Graduated Licensing Program (GDL).
- **Sign a pledge:** Have your teen take action by agreeing to a family contract about wearing safety belts, not speeding, not driving after drinking, and not using a cell phone behind the wheel. Agree on penalties for violating the pledge, such as paying for tickets or loss of driving privileges.
- **Other dangerous distractions:** In addition to cell phone use, distracted driving can include eating, grooming, drinking, listening to or adjusting the radio or MP3 player, using the GPS, talking to passengers, or watching a video, just to name a few activities. Inexperienced drivers are particularly susceptible to these kinds of distractions.

## Drugged driving

As more and more states legalize marijuana, it's important to remember that it's illegal for everyone under 21. And just because it's legal doesn't mean it's safe. Laws for operating under the influence of alcohol also apply to drugs. Almost any drug can affect your driving skills, including illegal drugs, prescription medicine, and even over-the-counter medicine. Smoking or ingesting marijuana makes it more difficult to respond to sights and sounds. This makes you dangerous as a driver; it lowers your ability to handle a quick series of tasks. The most serious problems occur when facing an unexpected event, such as a car coming out from a side street or a child running out between parked cars. These challenges get worse after dark, because marijuana can also limit night vision.

### Eyes on the road

Teens tend to look away from the road and become distracted for longer periods than older drivers. It's important to train them to keep their eyes on the road ahead. While parked, test your teen on how long they look away when doing various tasks inside the vehicle, such as tuning the radio. Coach them repeatedly on the importance of focusing on the road ahead.

### If you feel different, you drive different

If you're buzzed, drunk, or high, you are impaired and should never get behind the wheel. Marijuana, the drug most commonly found in the blood of people who have been in a car crash, can effect people differently. The best rule is this: if you plan to drive, have no drugs or alcohol.

# Teens' biggest dangers

Newly licensed teens crash much more often than older, more experienced drivers. In addition to distracted driving, these are the circumstances that are the most common trouble areas for young drivers:

## Seat belts

A 2018 study showed that while seat belt use among teens and young adults increased in the past decade to 87%, this age group, (age 16–24), still has the lowest seat belt use of any other age group. Nearly half of teens killed in car crashes are unrestrained. In 2019, 43% of high school students did not always wear a seat belt as a passenger. Whether sitting in the front or back of a car, buckle up every trip and remind other passengers to buckle up too. It could save their lives, and yours. Please visit NHTSA's website for more information <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts>

## Drugs and alcohol

Teens are at far greater risk of death in an alcohol-related crash than the overall population. This is despite the fact that they cannot legally purchase or publicly possess alcohol in any state. When alcohol is added to the inexperience of teen drivers, the results can be deadly. Drunk male teenage drivers are 18 times more likely than a sober male teen driver to be killed in a single-vehicle crash. Drunk female teenage drivers are 54 times more likely to be killed than a sober counterpart. Laws for operating under the influence of alcohol also apply to drugs. Almost any drug can affect your driving skills. Illegal drugs, prescription medicines, and over-the-counter medicines can all make it dangerous to drive. If you plan to drive, be smart and have no alcohol, marijuana, or any other drugs in your system.

## Fatigue

As teens get older their bedtimes get later, but waking times do not tend to change. From ages 13 to 19, nightly sleep is reduced by 40–50 minutes. Teen drivers who sleep less than 8 hours a night are 33 percent more likely to crash than teens who get more than 8 hours of sleep. This lack of sleep can result in depressive moods, more risk-taking behaviors, and lower grades. It further reduces a person's ability to process information, be attentive, and have good reflexes, which are all crucial to safe driving. Studies have shown that being awake for 18 hours has a similar impact to having a blood alcohol content (BAC) level of 0.08.

## Inexperience

Just as it takes years to perfect any skill – athletic, artistic, or otherwise – it also takes years to be a truly good driver. Until teens are much more experienced, they run a greater risk of crashing, being hurt, and potentially dying. A driver's license makes them a driver. Experience makes them good drivers.

## Night driving

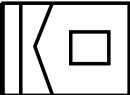
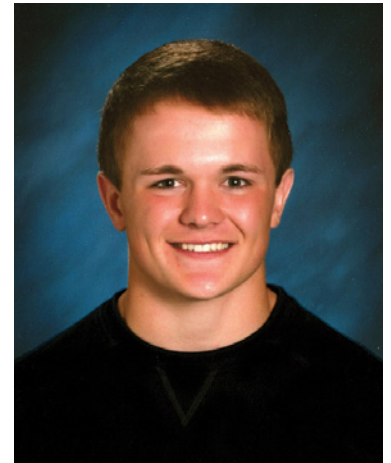
For teens, the most severe crashes occur at night and on weekends. Night driving is challenging for all drivers, but novice drivers do not have the experience to anticipate and react when visibility is reduced. When teens drive at night, it is more often with a lack of adult supervision, with other teen passengers, and at high speeds – all of which are factors that increase risk.

## Teen passengers

Research is clear on the fact that risky teen driving behaviors increase in the presence of teen passengers. A teen who is driving with other teens in the car is more likely to crash. The more kids there are in the car, the stronger the likelihood of a crash. This is the primary reason many states have passed laws that restrict the ability of teens to drive with their peers.

# BUCKLE UP

# FOR BOBBY



## PREPARE FOR THE RIDE

Bobby, a 16-year-old who was preparing to test for his driver's license in 5 short days, was proud to have completed his driver's education class and the 50+ hours of driving practice time with his parents. He was a straight A student and had done exceptionally well in his training. His very own Ford Explorer was parked in the driveway and ready for him to drive once the license was official. He was more than excited for the new sense of freedom he would have as a licensed driver. He had just started his junior year in high school and had asked permission to hang out and spend the night with some friends on a Saturday night.

The four friends took a drive up the dark, winding road to a local landmark, as they were returning something went terribly wrong. The 17-year-old driver was traveling at a speed that made negotiating the turns challenging, given her experience level and unfamiliarity with the road. She turned one corner, skid marks on the road indicate that rather than turning the next corner, she panicked and stood on the brakes. The car hit a rock, spun around and plunged nearly 100 feet down the rugged, rocky hillside. Three of the four occupants were ejected from the car. The two boys were thrown through the large back window and the driver through the sun roof. None of the four were wearing their seat belts. The air bag deployed and the occupant who remained in the car managed to escape and call for help. Both the driver and Bobby were lifeless as officers approached and initiated CPR. Rescue workers tried everything to save Bobby, but in the end, he, too, died of his injuries.

Our hope and prayer is that Bobby's story will reach young people and that they will realize that his life and that of Tiffany Walters and so many others would have likely been spared by simply wearing their seatbelts. Please! Buckle Up for Bobby and those you love.

– Sheri and Duke Rogers  
[www.buckleupforbobby.com](http://www.buckleupforbobby.com)

# Before you start the engine

**Goal:** Teach your teen vehicle basics before actual driving begins.

**Location:** Parked. This is a non-driving lesson.

## Lesson one – touring the vehicle

Walk around the outside of the car with your teen. Instruct them to look for leaks and hazards such as broken glass, and to make sure it's clear behind the vehicle as well as in front of the vehicle.

Have your teen practice these basic skills until they don't need help:

- Starting and stopping the engine
- Naming and operating all dashboard controls
- Checking oil level
- Checking wiper fluid
- Checking tire pressure
- Checking tire tread depth

## Lesson two – mirror settings

The method below provides the best view of adjacent lanes, for maximum safety.

- **Inside mirror:** Have your teen sit up straight in the driver's seat and adjust the inside mirror so that it frames the entire rear window. This is the main mirror for viewing what is behind the vehicle.
- **Left-side mirror:** Have your teen lean their head toward the left-side window, and set the left mirror so they can barely see the side of the car. When they sit up straight, the car should no longer be visible in the mirror.
- **Right-side mirror:** Do the same to the right. Have your teen lean to the right over the car's center console, and set the right mirror so they can barely see the right side of the car.

## Lesson three – checking blind spots

Additionally, teach your teen how to look over their shoulder to check the "blind spot" on each side of the car that cannot be seen in the mirrors.

## Lesson four – seating position

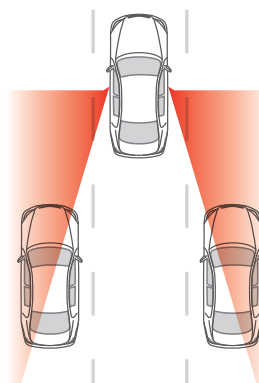
The proper seat position is important to safely control the vehicle. Your teen should sit with their back firmly against the seat. There should be at least 10 inches between the steering wheel and the driver's chest, with the air bag pointing at the chest. The top of the steering wheel should be no higher than the shoulders. Move the seat forward or backward so that the driver's heel touches the floor and can pivot between the brake and accelerator. Shorter drivers may need a seat cushion or pedal extenders to sit safely 10 inches from the air bag. The head restraint should be at the center of the driver's head.

## Lesson five - proper footwear

Wearing the right shoes has an effect on operating a vehicle. Flip-flops are dangerous to wear while driving, so encourage your teen to wear shoes that have a flat sole and a back. Driving barefoot is unsafe as well. Keep an extra pair of shoes in the car so your teen can remember to wear the proper shoes while driving. If they need to brake suddenly, the wrong footwear can make for an unsafe situation.

### Proper mirror setting

In the past, drivers were often taught mirror settings that caused overlap between the rear and side mirrors, which was less safe. This is a great opportunity to update your own driving skills while teaching your teen!



*The most effective way to deal with blind spots is to briefly turn and look.*

### Skill completed

\_\_\_\_\_  
supervisor initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
driver initials

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# Moving, steering and stopping

**Goal:** Teach your teen to consistently start, stop, and turn smoothly with full vehicle control.

**Location:** A large, level, mostly empty area.

Everyone in the vehicle **must** be properly buckled up.

Before starting, coach your teen to always signal and check mirrors and blind spots before changing the speed, position, or direction of the car. Remind them when needed.

Have your teen drive around the perimeter of the lot several times at a slow speed. Have them stop and start frequently, practicing smooth hand-to-hand steering, braking, and accelerating.

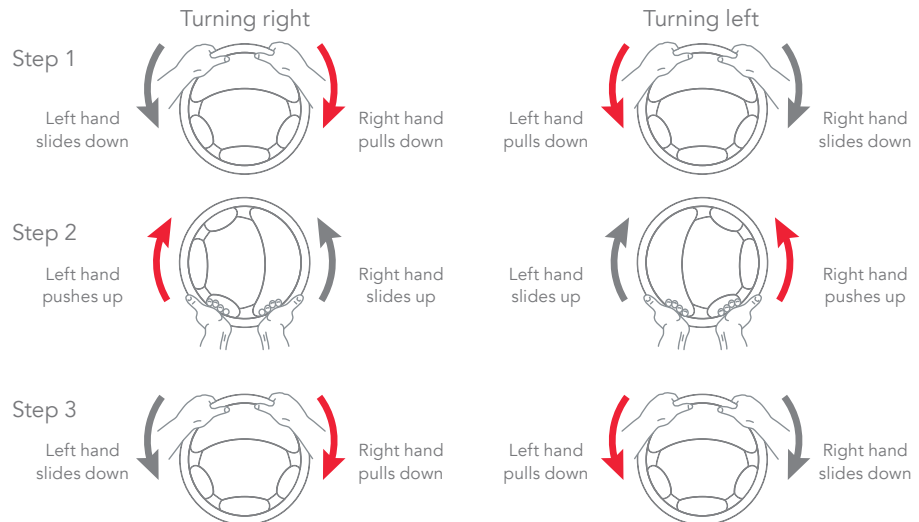
Pick several targets in the large, level, empty practice area, and have your teen drive to them at specific speeds. For example, "Drive to the stop sign at 15 mph." Focus on steady speed and smooth starts and stops.

Once your teen is braking smoothly, practice "hard, smooth stops" at slightly higher speeds (approximately 25–30 mph). *Hint: Curling toes back just before braking results in smoother stops. It eases the pressure on the brake.*

## Controlling speed

New drivers tend to use the brake too much and the accelerator too little to control speed. Coach your teen about easing up on the gas pedal as a way to reduce the car's speed.

## Lesson one – steps toward turning



*With hand-to-hand steering your hands do not cross each other.*

## Lesson two – turning techniques

- Ease off the accelerator and "coast" or use the brake to reduce speed before entering a curve; use gentle acceleration to overcome inertia and pull the vehicle out of the curve.
- Use smooth, continuous steering wheel movements when approaching a turn and when returning (sliding) the wheel through the hands until the vehicle is in the proper post-turn position.
- Coach your teen to pick a target near the center of the intended travel path. This target can be used as a visual aid to aim at while steering through turns.

## Skill completed

\_\_\_\_\_  
supervisor initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
driver initials

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# How close are you?

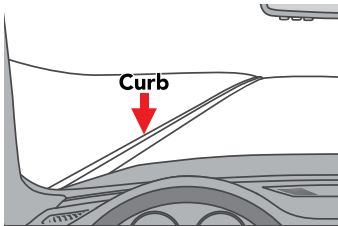
**Goal:** Teach your teen how to tell where their vehicle is in relation to other vehicles or objects.

**Location:** A large, level, mostly empty area with clearly painted pavement lines and curbs.

## Reference points

Explain to your teen that reference points are visual guides to help them judge the car's distance from curbs, lines, other objects, and vehicles.

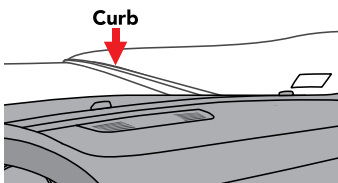
### Lesson one – driver's side curb (or line)



*View out the front windshield.  
Reference points will be different  
for everyone, depending on the  
vehicle and the height of the driver.*

- Choose a pavement curb (or line), and tell your teen that the goal is to pull the driver's side of the vehicle 6–12 inches away. Coach them to slowly pull up parallel to the line, getting gradually closer, and stop when they think they are 6–12 inches away. Have them look at where the line intersects in the front window.
- Have your teen put the car in park and get out to check if the driver's side wheels are 6–12 inches from the line. If it's not the right distance, have them do it again, checking the reference points.

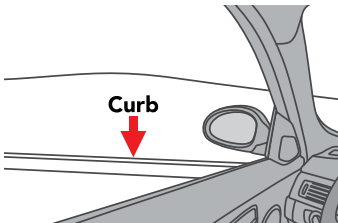
### Lesson two – passenger's side curb (or line)



*View out the front windshield.  
Reference points will be different  
for everyone, depending on the  
vehicle and the height of the driver.*

- Choose another curb (or line) parallel to the passenger's side, again pulling up slowly to within 6–12 inches. Use the same gradual pull-up method, but for this side, coach your teen to stop when the curb appears to intersect the center of the hood.
- Again, have your teen get out of the vehicle to check whether the tires are 6–12 inches from the curb. Keep practicing and making adjustments, noticing the reference point, until they can do it consistently.
- Practice This! It is a task required on the Skills Test. Drivers must not hit the curb or sidewalk and be less than 18 inches away.

### Lesson three – front curb (or line)



*View out the driver's side window.  
Reference points will be different  
for everyone, depending on the  
vehicle and the height of the driver.*

- Teach your teen to align the front bumper between 6–12 inches from a pavement curb (or line). Have them drive slowly straight toward the curb. Coach them to stop when the curb appears under the passenger's side mirror.
- Have your teen get out of the vehicle to check whether the front bumper is 6–12 inches from the curb. If not, have them adjust the reference point as needed and keep practicing.

## Making your teen safer

It takes more than 15 minutes every day for six months to complete 50 hours of practice driving. For 100 hours, it's more than 30 minutes a day for six months. Studies show that the more time you drive together, the safer your teen will be when driving alone.

## Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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# Backing up

**Goal:** Teach your teen how to safely drive backwards in a straight line and while turning.

**Location:** A large, level, mostly empty area.

## Lesson one – before moving the vehicle

- Coach your teen that they must turn around and look backwards through the rear window when backing up. Using mirrors or backup cameras doesn't give a full view.
- Have your teen shift their hips and turn around until they get a good view behind the vehicle. They should drape their right arm over the back of the seat and grasp the top of the steering wheel with their left hand.

## Lesson two – backing up in a straight line

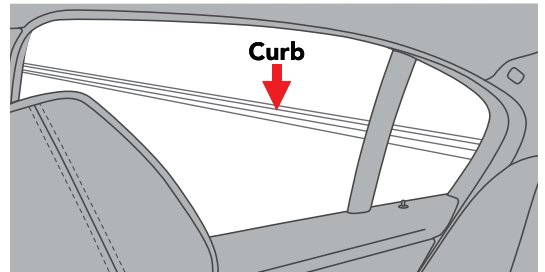
- Check all areas behind the vehicle prior to and while backing up.
- Grasp the steering wheel with the left hand and look over the right shoulder through the rear window.
- First release the brake, then use the accelerator gently, and only when necessary, to control speed. Keep it slow.

## Lesson three – backing up in a turn

- If turning to the left, grasp the steering wheel with the right hand, or with the left hand if turning to the right. Remind your teen to turn the wheel in the direction they want the car to travel.
- Look in the direction the car is moving through the rear side windows.
- Back into the turn slowly, first releasing the brake, then using the accelerator if needed.

## Lesson four – aligning rear bumper to a curb

- Choose a curb (or line) for a target.
- Have your teen back up toward the target, coaching them to stop when the curb appears near the middle of the rear right window when looking over their right shoulder.
- Have your teen put the car in park and set the emergency brake.
- Have your teen get out of the car to see whether the rear bumper is close to the target.
- If adjustments are needed, have your teen try again, establishing a new reference point. Repeat as often as needed until your teen can consistently come within close proximity to the target.



*The driver's view out of the back passenger window. Reference points will be different for everyone, depending on the vehicle and the height of the driver.*

### Slow and consistent

Emphasize that backing up must be done at slow and consistent speeds. It's harder to maintain control of the car when it's in reverse.

Skill completed

\_\_\_\_\_  
supervisor initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
driver initials

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# Driving on a quiet street – part one

**Goal:** Teach your teen to move and stop a vehicle safely and with confidence on quiet roads.

**Location:** Start in a large, level, mostly empty area. Move to a quiet neighborhood street when indicated. Out of respect to our neighbors, please do not use official state road test courses for practice.

Before moving out onto the road, make sure that your teen has reviewed the driver's manual and is familiar with street signs, signals, pavement markings, and yield and speed laws.

## Skill review

Starting in a quiet, large, level, empty area, review the skills learned so far. Have your teen drive several laps around the lot, practicing smooth braking and accelerating, maintaining steady speeds, steering into right and left turns, and using reference points to align the car with curbs (or lines).

## Lesson one – commentary driving

Coach your teen to use "commentary driving" (see sidebar on page 2) throughout this lesson.

## Lesson two – lane position

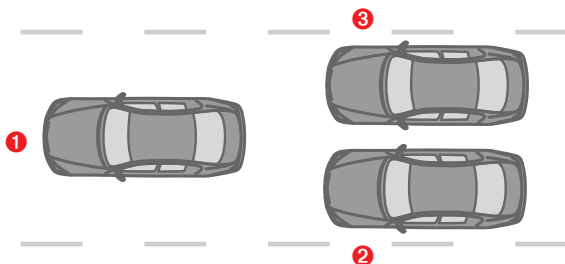
When you and your teen feel ready, move to a quiet street.

With your teen behind the wheel, first have them practice driving straight in three different lane positions. Do this for several miles, practicing each position at least 10 times:

**Center position ①:** The most common position, with the vehicle centered within the lane. Coach your teen that they should stay in the center position under most circumstances.

**Left position ②:** The vehicle positioned to the left side of the lane. This is best used when approaching parked vehicles and potential hazards on the right (if no oncoming traffic). It should be avoided on a hill or a curve.

**Right position ③:** The vehicle positioned to the right side of the lane. This is usually done when making a right turn to allow for a safety margin on the left side of the vehicle.



*Most driving is done in lane position number one.*

## Lesson three – intersections

Coach your teen on these techniques for safely approaching an intersection:

- Search for vehicles, pedestrians, signs, and traffic signals.
- Check the rearview mirror for any potential hazards behind the car.
- If it's an intersection with traffic signals, identify who has the green light.
- If turning, put on the turn signal four seconds before making the turn.
- If a stop is required, stop behind the white stop line.
- Select the best lane for the intended direction of travel.
- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles.

## Emergency vehicles

Make sure your teen understands what to do if they encounter emergency vehicles. First, turn down the radio to listen for the direction of the emergency vehicle(s). Pull over and stop next to the nearest curb, clear of intersections, and wait for the emergency vehicle(s) to pass.

## Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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## Driving on a quiet street – part two

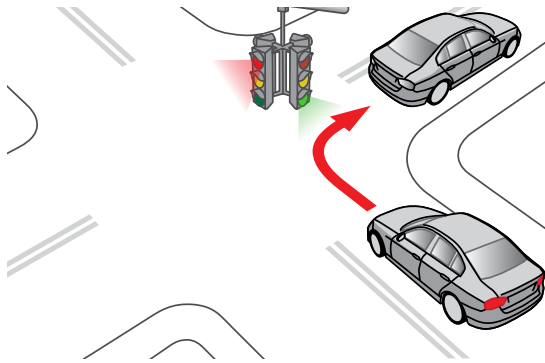
**Goal:** Teach your teen to turn both right and left safely and with confidence on quiet roads.

**Location:** A quiet block of single-lane roads, ideally without traffic signals at the intersections.

### Lesson one – right turns

When your teen is comfortable with lane positions and intersections, it's time to practice turns. Start with right turns. Have your teen drive clockwise around the block 10–12 times:

- Pick a line at the center of the intended travel path while steering through a turn. Make sure your teen does not fixate on one specific spot, but instead focuses on a broader path.
- Focus on smooth braking into the turn and acceleration out of the turn, as previously practiced in the large, level, empty area.
- Always check mirrors before turns and signal four seconds before turning.



*Have your teen drive around the block making right turns 10–12 times. When they are proficient, drive around the block 10–12 times making left turns.*

### Lesson two – left turns

When your teen is proficient at right turns, move on to left turns. Have your teen drive counterclockwise around the block 10–12 times, coaching them on these techniques for safe left turns:

- Position the vehicle close to the yellow line in the middle of the road.
- If there is a stop sign or red light, stop with wheels pointed straight ahead before the stop line, crosswalk or intersection.
- Search the intersection in all directions for vehicles, pedestrians, signs, and signals.
- Select a gap in traffic and pull straight forward toward the middle of the intersection. Coach your teen to avoid hesitating.
- Use the yellow line on the street being turned onto as a target. Turn into the travel lane closest to the yellow line.
- When the turn is complete, let the steering wheel slide back through the hands.
- Pick a new target 15–20 seconds ahead in the center of the travel path and accelerate gradually.

Be sure to practice with your teen in a variety of conditions, including at night and in inclement weather, as much as possible.

### Focus ahead

Most drivers have a tendency to steer in the direction they look. If their eyes move to one side, the car may drift in that direction, too. Remind your teen to focus on a path line in the middle of their travel lane — and not fixate on lane lines or other objects. The rest of the area should be scanned quickly and frequently.

### Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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# Looking ahead

**Goal:** Teach your teen to develop defensive driving techniques and higher-level visual and anticipatory driving skills before moving on to more complex driving situations. In order to avoid last-second reactions and spot potential hazards, have your teen always look 12–15 seconds down the road. When they are looking far enough ahead, they will be able to spot hazards early and be well prepared to react to them.

**Location:** Start on a quiet neighborhood street. Out of respect to our neighbors, please do not use official state road test courses for practice. Move onto a road with light traffic when your teen is ready.

## Lesson one – IPDE system

Teach your teen the **IPDE system**, a simple system to help new drivers recognize, anticipate and avoid risks before they turn into problems. IPDE stands for:

- Identify** potential risks, like oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, obstacles, or intersections.
- Predict** when and where there will be a conflict or problem.
- Decide** on the best course of action.
- Execute** that action.

Have your teen use commentary driving as they practice the IPDE system. As they drive, ask them to verbally describe their thoughts and actions in order to identify potential risks they see, predict problems these risks could cause, decide what to do to avoid a problem, and then execute the maneuver.

## Lesson two – stopping-distance rule

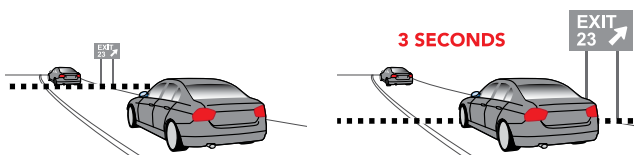
Teach your teen the stopping-distance rule, for the safest distance to stop behind another vehicle. When your vehicle stops, you should be far enough away from the car in front of you that you can see where its tires make contact with the ground. Any closer is too close.

## Lesson three – three-second rule

Teach your teen the three-second rule for the appropriate following distance when driving behind other vehicles. The three-second rule is an important safety measure designed to give drivers enough time to safely steer or brake to avoid problems that occur in front of them on the road.

- Start counting when the rear bumper of the vehicle in front of you passes an object.
- Count “one thousand ONE, one thousand TWO, one thousand THREE.”
- Your front bumper should not pass that same object before you’ve reached “three.”

Have your teen practice the three-second rule at least 10–12 times, counting out loud to check whether their following distance is appropriate.



*Your front bumper should not pass before you’ve reached “three.”*

### Idaho’s Basic Rule for speed

Idaho law requires you drive at a speed that is “reasonable and prudent” at all times. The posted speed limit of 55 mph may not be safe when the roadway is icy.

### Don’t tailgate

Rear-end collisions are the most common form of a car crash. Emphasize to your teen that increasing following distance behind other vehicles is the single best thing they can do to minimize the risk of a crash.

Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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# Turning around

**Goal:** Teach your teen the best ways to turn a vehicle around in various circumstances.

**Location:** Start on a quiet neighborhood street with accessible driveways. Please be respectful of neighbors and private property. Move to a multi-lane road for U-turns, if legally allowed in your area.

## Lesson one – turning around safely

Start by coaching your teen that the safest and easiest way to turn around is to drive around the block. Since that's not always possible, it's important to practice other ways to turn around.

## Lesson two – two-point turns

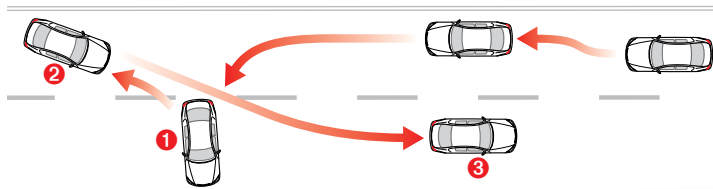
A two-point turn involves backing into a driveway to reverse direction. On a quiet street, have your teen identify an available driveway on the same side of the street as your car, at a point where they can see oncoming traffic for at least 200 feet.

- Pull just ahead of the driveway, making sure there is no traffic behind the car, and signal.
- Make sure the road is clear behind the car and the driveway, put the car in reverse, and then back into the driveway.
- Shift back into drive and check the road for approaching traffic from both directions.
- When it's clear, turn back onto the road.

## Lesson three – three-point turns

This more challenging turn should only be done when there is no available driveway. Three-point turns block both sides of a two-lane road, so coach your teen to make absolutely sure that the traffic is clear in both directions:

- Pull as far to the right as possible to maximize room to maneuver.
- Turn sharply across the road **1** until the car is perpendicular, facing the curb.
- Continue checking for traffic in both directions.
- Put the car in reverse and back up **2**, turning sharply in the other direction, into the original lane, but now facing the opposite direction.
- Shift into drive and pull forward **3** into the correct lane, driving straight ahead.



## Lesson four – U-turns

First explain that U-turns can be very dangerous, and should only be done where they are legal.

- Begin the U-turn in the left lane, closest to the center line or median.
- Be sure there is enough room to make the turn without hitting the curb or any parked cars.
- Signal to indicate the direction of the turn, checking carefully for oncoming traffic.
- Move forward, turning the wheel sharply to turn around.
- Finish the U-turn in the opposite direction and accelerate to an appropriate speed.

### Legal U-turns

U-turns are illegal in many locations. Make sure you and your teen only practice legal U-turns. U-turns should never be made across a double yellow line or where a sign indicates that they are prohibited.

### Skill completed

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driver initials

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## Idaho teen driving log

Parents or guardians are responsible for making certain that their teen has completed no less than 50 hours of supervised driving, with 10 of those hours completed at night. The student driver must be accompanied by a valid licensed driver over the age of 21 in the front passenger seat during the supervised driving. Everyone in the vehicle must use seat belts and not be under the influence of any intoxicating substance. If a citation is issued during the Supervised Instruction Period, the student's permit will be canceled and the student driver will be required to purchase a new permit and start the Supervised Instruction Period again.

The following log is a tool for your convenience that will help you keep track of time spent on the road and will ensure that your teen has a diverse supervised driving experience. You want your teen to be as prepared as possible for their Operator's License.

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# SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG



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## The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program

Idaho's Graduated Driver Licensing Program is designed to reduce the number of teen citations and collisions by giving them more driving experience before becoming fully licensed. The permit given to the teen driver after successfully completing driver education must be in the driver's possession while driving. The permit is valid until five (5) days after the student's eighteenth (18th) birthday.

Teen drivers are required to follow these restrictions:

- ☐ The six (6) month period of supervised driving begins the day driver education is completed successfully, and the Instructor issues the permit.
- ☐ Teen drivers must practice for a minimum of six (6) months, including at least forty (40) hours of daylight driving and ten (10) hours of nighttime driving.
- ☐ The supervising driver must have a valid license and be at least 21 years of age. They also need to be in the front seat and not under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ☐ All occupants must wear seatbelts and observe all alcohol and drug laws.
- ☐ A permit can be cancelled for not following the above restrictions, for receiving a traffic violation, or for not attending school.

### GDL systems

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) systems are intended to provide teen drivers with practice under the safest conditions, exposing them to more situations only as their skills and experience grow.

## Idaho Traffic Laws

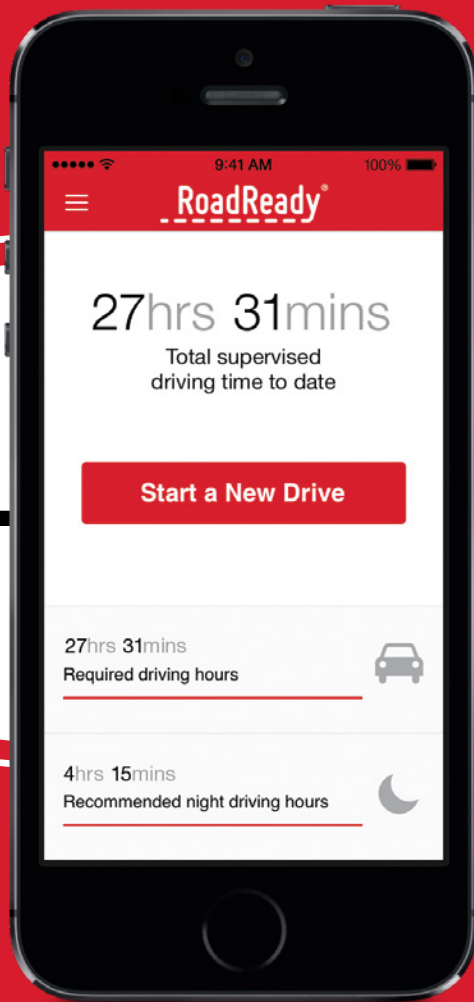
Though certainly not a complete list of laws, here are some to focus on while doing supervised driving:

- Obey all traffic control devices. You must stop prior to entering the intersection when indicated by a stop sign. When a stop line is present, you must stop prior to the stop line.
- At a 4-way stop, the vehicle who approaches first has the right-of-way. If two or more cars approach at the same time, the car on the right has the right-of-way.
- You must stop when entering a street from an alley, parking lot, driveway, private road.
- You must yield to pedestrians crossing the street in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- The speed limit is only for ideal conditions.
- The "Move Over" law requires you to change lanes whenever possible to provide more room for an emergency vehicle stopped with lights flashing.
- The law requires you to stay in the right lane when there are multiple lanes except when passing.
- You cannot exceed the speed limit to pass another vehicle.
- You cannot pass another vehicle within 100 feet of an intersection.
- You cannot go around a stopped vehicle in front of you if it requires you to go off the pavement.
- When stopping behind another vehicle, you should be able to see where that vehicle's rear tires touch the pavement.
- The hands-free driving law bans the use of electronic devices while driving, including at stop signs and red lights.
- Stop for a school bus that is loading or unloading students. Remain stopped until the flashing red lights are turned off. You do not need to stop for a school bus if you are traveling in the opposite direction on a road that has 4 or more lanes.

@PSDP\_Info thank you!

I love this app so much.

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A component of the **PARENT'S**   
Supervised Driving Program

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Share drives and accomplishments with friends on social networks with RoadReady's social sharing options.

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Connect one teen driver's practice drive time across multiple phones by using the same log-in on each device.

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# Drive Well Idaho



Shift is a movement, helping Idaho reduce distracted driving incidents by encouraging conversations about engaged driving - being in the moment free from distraction.

[shift-idaho.org](https://shift-idaho.org)

Shift is an engaged driving initiative by the  
Idaho Transportation Department.

# Parking – part one

**Goal:** Teach your teen to master angle and perpendicular parking.

**Location:** Start in large, level, mostly empty areas. You will need angled and perpendicular spaces.

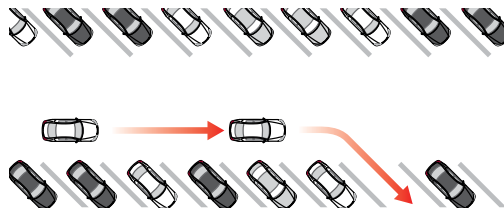
Before your teen starts parking practice, review “Skill three: How close are you?” and “Skill four: Backing up.”

## Lesson one – angle parking

The slight turn makes this the easiest type of parking for new drivers.

*Hint: Choosing a parking spot on the left side of the car can provide more room to maneuver and a better view of traffic when backing out.*

- Signal to indicate intent to turn into a parking space.
- Move forward until the steering wheel is aligned with the first pavement line marking the space.
- Look at the middle of the parking space and turn the wheel sharply at a slow, controlled speed.
- Steer toward the center of the space, straightening the wheel upon entry.
- Stop when the front bumper is six inches from the curb or from the end of the space.
- After you’ve parked, put the gear in park for automatic transmissions (for manual transmissions, put the car either in first or reverse) and set the parking brake. Shut off the ignition and remove the key. Check for traffic prior to getting out. Lock the doors.



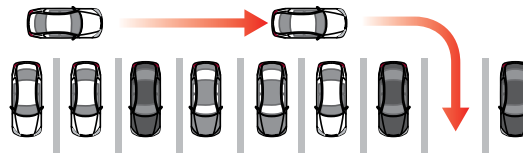
*Turn when the front of your vehicle reaches the edge of the space. Stay alert for cars backing out to leave their space.*

### Practice makes perfect

Plan to spend a good amount of time on parking practice with your teen — it’s a difficult skill to learn. Many crashes happen in parking lots, and mastering parking skills is an important way to help avoid collisions. Have your teen practice angle and perpendicular parking 15–20 times each.

## Lesson two – perpendicular parking

The steps are the same as for angle parking, but the sharper turn into perpendicular spaces may require more practice.



## Lesson three – exiting spaces

- With a foot on the brake, shift into reverse, which will signal that you will be backing up.
- Turn around to look for oncoming traffic.
- For **angled spaces**, back up straight until the driver’s seat is even with the bumper of the next vehicle on the turning side. For **perpendicular spaces**, back up straight until the windshield is aligned with the bumper of the next vehicle.
- Quickly turn the wheel in the direction that the rear of the car needs to go.
- Glance forward to make sure the front bumper is clear of the car on the other side.
- When the front bumper clears the other vehicle, stop, shift into drive, and pull forward to complete the exit.

*Turn when your outside mirror reaches the edge of the space. Always finish with your wheels straight and your car centered in the space.*

### Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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## Parking – part two

**Goal:** Teach your teen to master parallel parking.

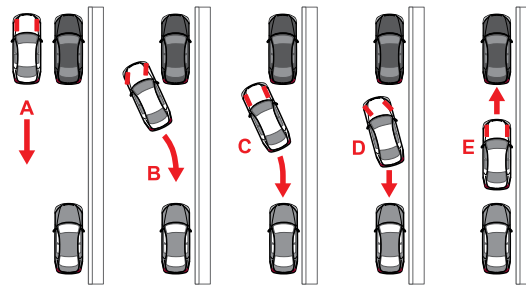
**Location:** A street with marked parallel parking spaces at a time of day when traffic is light.

### Lesson one – parallel parking

Parallel parking is a difficult maneuver for new drivers, so patience is key. Many drivers never learn to do it well, especially in areas where it's not common. Because of the difficulty of learning parallel parking, and because there are several different teaching methods, **this skill is sometimes best taught by a professional driving instructor.** Assess your own parallel parking skills and your teen's abilities before beginning.

#### Have patience

When practicing parallel parking, your teen will probably hit the curb several times. Tell them not to worry — even the best parallel parkers do this often. Coach them to pull out of the space and try again, adjusting their turning angle as needed.



*Start by practicing with cones before graduating to practicing alongside vehicles.*

- Select an available space on the passenger's side of the car.
- Signal when approaching the space and check mirrors for traffic behind the vehicle.
- Move forward past the space until lined up directly parallel to the car parked in front, 2–5 feet away. Being too close or too far away will make parking more difficult.
- With a foot on the brake, shift to reverse and turn around to check for traffic and make sure the travel path is clear.
- Release the brake, start backing up slowly, and start to make an "S" turn, turning first right and then left.
- Glance both forward and backward repeatedly to check the space around the car while turning.
- Once the rear of the car is mostly in the space, start turning in the other direction to straighten out.
- Adjust the vehicle's position as needed to center it in the space.
- Check to see if the wheels are 6–12 inches from the curb. If not, pull out and try again.
- Always check for passing vehicles and cyclists before you open your door.

### Lesson two – exiting a parallel parking space

- With a foot on the brake, shift to reverse, turn around, and back as close as possible to the vehicle behind you.
- Check for traffic, signal, and shift into drive.
- Make sure the travel path is clear, then move slowly forward while steering rapidly out of the space.

### Lesson three – parallel parking on a hill

**Parallel parking on a decline with a curb:** Position the vehicle close to the curb and stop. Let the vehicle creep forward while turning the wheel right, letting the tire wedge itself against the curb. Shift to park and set the parking brake. **Without a curb:** Follow the same procedure, but there will be no curb to wedge the tire against.

**Parallel parking on an incline with a curb:** Pull close to the curb. Before stopping, turn the wheel left, and let the vehicle roll back until the right front wheel wedges against the curb. **Without a curb:** Pull as far off the road as possible, turn the wheel right, shift to park and set the parking brake.

#### Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

#RoadReady



# Rural driving

**Mountain driving:** Mountain driving is common in Idaho, so drivers must understand its unique challenges. The weight of your vehicle will work against you when going up and downhill. It is illegal to coast downhill in neutral as it may cause your vehicle to speed up and lose control. Shift to a lower gear if you are braking often when going downhill.

Mountain weather can create hazardous driving conditions, including fog, snow and ice. Conditions can change quickly and shaded areas can remain slick when sunny areas are dry.

The higher the altitude, the less oxygen there is in the air. Some people may react to the decrease in oxygen. They may develop mild symptoms, such as headache, nausea, and/or fatigue. Remember, insufficient hydration can lead to the onset of symptoms of altitude sickness. Even if they are mild, they can affect your alertness as a driver.

**Desert driving:** Desert driving has its own unique challenges, including intense daytime heat that can cause vehicle malfunctions and blinding solar glare.

Before driving in hot desert conditions make sure your vehicle is prepared. Radiator fluids should be checked when the engine is cool. Tire pressure should be checked regularly and kept at the recommended pressure. Tires that are over or under-inflated can cause tire failure.

**Rural (country) driving:** Nearly twice as many fatal crashes happen on rural roads than on urban roads. Road surfaces can vary greatly from paved to dirt or loose gravel. Shoulders, if any, may be narrow. Night driving without street lights makes it difficult to see. Here it's important to remember Idaho's "Basic Rule" when it comes to speed: You can only drive the speed limit if conditions are ideal.

**Rural intersections:** At higher speeds a driver can easily miss a stop sign. Last second reactions at higher speeds can result in loss of control and a crash.

**Animals:** If unable to stop for an animal crossing the road, do NOT swerve – swerving makes it hard to keep control. The most serious crashes happen when drivers swerve into oncoming traffic or roll into a ditch. It's important to constantly look ahead to avoid something that may appear in your path. If you see an animal, slow down and prepare to stop. Always be on the lookout, especially at sunrise and sunset.

**Off-road recovery:** One of the most common driving hazards is running off the road. The urge to overcorrect is strong and often results in a serious crash. Follow these steps to ease your vehicle back onto the road.

- Grip the wheel tightly and steer straight ahead.
- Stay on the shoulder if there are no immediate obstacles.
- Do not immediately turn the wheel aggressively to re-enter the roadway. Oversteering will cause your vehicle to roll or to shoot across the centerline.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Find a safe place to reenter the road.
- Turn on your turn signal and reenter the road when it is clear.

## Gravel slide

Be ready for skids. A vehicle can become difficult to handle in heavy gravel. If the vehicle starts to skid, release the accelerator or brakes. As you release them, look where you want to go, and steer in that direction.

Skill completed

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supervisor initials

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driver initials

#RoadReady

# Multi-lane roads – part one

**Goal:** Teach your teen to drive safely and with confidence on busier, more complex, multi-lane roads.

**Location:** A busier, multi-lane road. Choose a time with limited traffic, such as a weekend morning.

## Skill review

By now, your teen should be comfortable driving on quiet roads. Before starting multi-lane road practice, it's important to review some key information from previous lessons. The following skills are crucial to safe driving on busier, more complicated roads.

### Other road users

Motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians are more difficult to see than cars because they are smaller — and drivers tend to focus on looking for cars. Traffic, weather, and road conditions require cyclists to react differently than motorists. It can be difficult for young drivers to judge and predict their actions. Always give motorcyclists and bicyclists a wide berth and reduce your speed.

## Lesson one – mirror positioning, monitoring and blind spots

**Refer to Skills One and Two.** Clearly seeing the adjacent traffic is especially important on multi-lane roads. Remind your teen to check the mirror positions when entering the car, and to constantly monitor the traffic around them.

## Lesson two – stopping distance

**Refer to Skill Six.** Remind your teen that when stopping their vehicle behind another one, they should be far enough back to see where the other car's tires meet the road.

## Lesson three – following distance

**Refer to Skill Six.** Review the three-second rule with your teen, emphasizing that increasing following distance is the single best way to reduce crash risk. This gives the driver visibility, time, and space to avoid crashes.

## Lesson four – safe lane changing

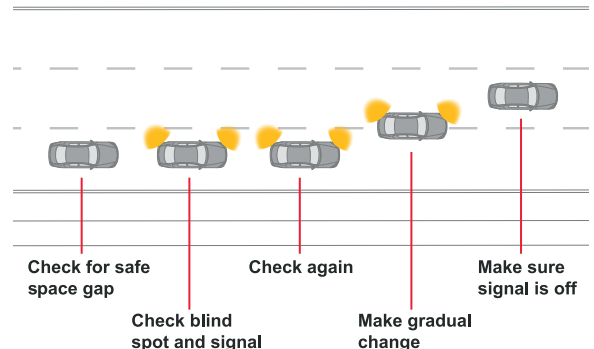
Changing lanes in a vehicle that has large blind areas is difficult and often dangerous. It requires a "blind spot check" (looking over the shoulder) to verify there is a large enough of a gap to move in to.

The technique used for a safe lane change is **S.M.O.G:**

- **Signal** – Let others know your intention
- **Mirror check** – Inside mirror then outside mirror
- **Over your shoulder** – Look to check blind spot
- **Go if it is clear** – Change lanes and cancel signal

Have your teen practice these lane change steps 15–20 times:

- Check traffic to the rear and the sides for an appropriate gap.
- Signal to indicate intention to change lanes.
- Recheck traffic, including a glance over the shoulder at the mirror blind spot area.
- Maintain speed or accelerate slightly before and during the lane change.
- Gradually move in to the new lane.
- Adjust following distance, using the three-second rule.



*When changing lanes, always recheck traffic with a glance over the shoulder at the blind spot.*

## Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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# Multi-lane roads – part two

**Goal:** Teach your teen to drive safely and with confidence on busier, more complex, multi-lane roads.

**Location:** A busier, multi-lane road. Choose a time with limited traffic, such as a weekend morning.

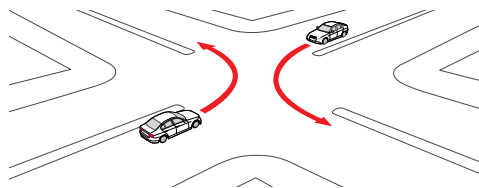
## Lesson one – right turns

Start with right turns, which are fairly simple. Right turns are always made from the right lane of the current road to the first, open lane of the new road. Look for signs and signals that indicate whether “right on red” is allowed. Practice right turns 10–12 times before moving on to left turns.

## Lesson two – left turns

Left turns should almost always begin and end in the closest lane to the right of the yellow line. The yellow line in the lane being turned into should be your teen’s target. There are three types of left turns:

- **Protected left turns** with a designated left turn lane and left turn signal
- **Semi-protected left turns** made from a center or shared turn lane
- **Unprotected left turns** made from an active travel lane



*Don't turn the wheel until you're ready to make the turn.*

Protected left turns should be made from the designated lane when the left turn signal displays a green arrow, using the yellow line in the lane being turned into as the steering target.

For semi-protected and unprotected left turns, coach your teen on these steps:

- Make sure the vehicle is in the correct lane to make a left turn.
- Signal the turn and begin slowing down at least 100 feet from the intersection.
- Move carefully in to the intersection. Don't turn the wheel until you're ready to make the turn.
- Yield to any vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians.
- When there is sufficient space with no oncoming traffic, move ahead in to the turn.
- Choose a steering path line in the middle of the closest lane to the right of the yellow line.

## Lesson three – safe passing procedures

Discourage your teen from passing other cars unnecessarily. If passing is necessary, the following steps should be observed:

- Position your vehicle more than three seconds behind the vehicle to be passed.
- Check mirrors and blind spots for oncoming traffic.
- Check the passing lane ahead to make sure there's plenty of space before you try to pass.
- Signal intent to pass and accelerate quickly to match the speed of traffic flow.
- While passing, monitor the space in front of and behind your vehicle and check the rearview mirror for the front of the car being passed.
- When you see the front of the passed car in the rearview mirror and your vehicle is well clear, signal intent, gently and slowly move back to the original lane, cancel the signal, and maintain speed.

### Making left turns

Left turns are one of the hardest maneuvers for teens to master. Be patient. New drivers often have difficulty judging the speed and distances of multiple lanes of oncoming traffic. Practice judging oncoming vehicles' distance from your vehicle by counting out loud the time it takes for them to reach your car from a designated point.

### Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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## City driving – part one

**Goal:** Teach your teen to drive safely and confidently in the complex environment of city driving.

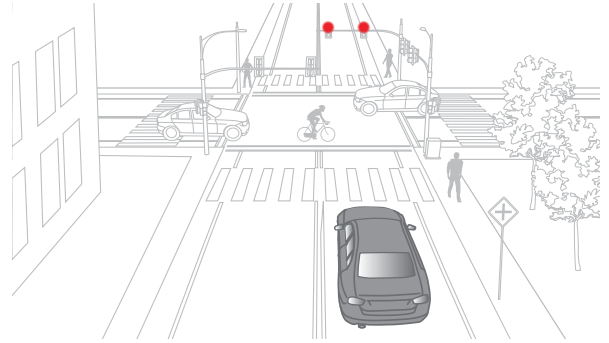
**Note:** City driving takes hundreds of hours, if not several years, to master.

**Location:** Busy, urban streets. Start at times when traffic is light, moving on to heavier traffic times as your teen gains practice.

### Skill review

Since the busy, crowded environment of city driving is challenging for new drivers, this is a good time to review key driving skills. **The most important skill for drivers is the ability to make good decisions.** City driving forces drivers to make lots of decisions quickly. The three things they need to drive safely in the city are:

- **Visibility:** To see potential problems in all directions
- **Space:** To maneuver around obstacles and avoid hazards
- **Time:** To anticipate risks and make adjustments to speed or position



*Looking ahead, identifying and anticipating potential problems is crucial for safe driving.*

### Scan first

Keep reminding your teen that constant awareness and looking ahead are the keys to learning to drive safely on city streets. Emphasize the idea that a green light means, "Scan the intersection first, then go."

### Lesson one – maximizing visibility and space

As you practice, have your teen focus on making decisions that will maximize visibility and space around the vehicle, increasing the available reaction time.

- **Looking ahead (refer to Skill Six):** Congested city driving leaves very little room for error. Identifying and anticipating potential problems is crucial.
- **Covering the brake:** Coach your teen that when they spot a hazard, they should "cover" the brake by taking their foot off the accelerator and holding it over the brake. This will prepare them to slow down or stop suddenly. Make sure they don't "ride" the brake. Riding the brake confuses other drivers and puts unnecessary wear on the brakes.

### Lesson two – identifying hazards

As you begin city driving practice, have your teen drive through several blocks to identify and name common hazards on busy, congested streets. Ask them to describe how they will safely deal with each hazard they identify.

Such hazards may include:

- Parked cars, cars entering or exiting parking spaces, and car doors opening
- Delivery trucks stopping suddenly, with drivers racing to and from the trucks
- Buses making frequent stops, loading and unloading passengers
- Blind alleys, with cars or cyclists darting out
- Pedestrians and cyclists moving unpredictably, crossing streets outside of a sidewalk, etc.
- Limited visibility and intersections spaced at shorter intervals
- Aggressive drivers competing for lane space and parking spots
- Stop-and-go traffic flow

### Skill completed

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supervisor initials

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driver initials

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# City driving – part two

**Goal:** Teach your teen to drive safely and confidently in the complex environment of city driving.

*Note: This is not a goal that will be achieved in a single session. Spend as much time as possible with your teen practicing safe city driving skills.*

**Location:** Busy urban streets. Start at times when traffic is light, moving on to heavier traffic times as your teen gains practice.

## Lesson one – avoiding obstacles

**Focus on lane position to avoid obstacles:** City driving involves many circumstances in which travel lanes are shared, congested, and partially or fully blocked. During practice sessions on busy city roads, have your teen identify these steps to safely avoid obstacles:

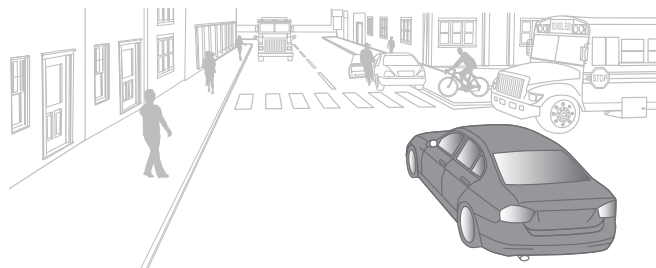
- Identify right-lane obstacles, such as stopped buses, parked cars, delivery trucks, and cyclists.
- Identify left-lane obstacles, such as vehicles waiting to make a left turn, or cars traveling in the opposite direction drifting over the center line.
- Identify the least-congested travel lane. *Hint: On a three-lane road, this is usually the center lane.*
- Position the vehicle in the lane at the greatest distance possible from any obstacles.

It can be tempting to pass vehicles on congested streets, when obstacles or traffic volume slow traffic. However, this can be dangerous, due to closely spaced intersections, irregular traffic flow, cars entering and exiting parking spots, etc. Coach your teen to avoid passing on busy city streets.

## Lesson two – deadly distractions

What happens inside the car can be just as dangerous as what happens outside. **Engaging in distracting activities while driving can be deadly, especially for young drivers.** Ask your teen to list dangerous driving distractions. Their answers should include:

- Dialing a phone, talking or texting
- Changing radio stations, or shuffling/streaming music
- Passengers, pets, or objects moving in the car
- Eating, drinking, or smoking
- Searching for an item
- Intense or emotional conversations
- Putting on makeup or looking in the mirror



*Remind your teen to stay alert, scan their surroundings, and not fixate on any one thing.*

Coach your teen to avoid distracting activities whenever possible, but especially in busy, congested environments. Remind them to focus on keeping as much space as possible around the vehicle at all times.

### More is better

City driving skills take a long time to acquire. Spend as much time and drive in as many circumstances with your teen (night, inclement weather) as you are able. Plan trips to less-familiar places where you might not normally travel.

### Skill completed

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supervisor initials

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driver initials

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# Freeway driving – part one

**Goal:** Teach your teen freeway basics and how to safely enter and exit a freeway.

**Location:** Start on a multi-lane freeway with easily accessible exits, at a time when traffic is light, such as a weekend morning. Move on to practice at heavier traffic times when your teen is ready.

## Lesson one – observation

Before your teen gets behind the wheel on the freeway, have your teen spend some time on freeways with you as the driver and your teen as the passenger. Emphasize the importance of looking ahead to anticipate potential problems, and explain key freeway features, such as:

- The different kinds of interchanges
- The meanings of freeway signs and signals
- The meanings of different lane lines and markings

## Lesson two – on-ramp segments

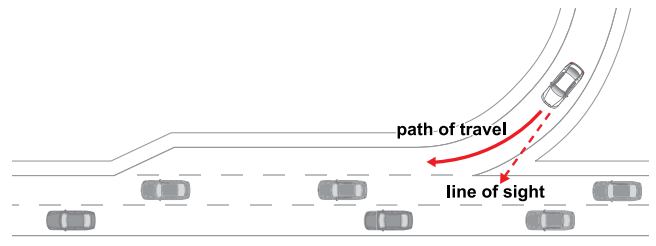
Explain the three segments of on-ramps, and how they're used:

- **Entrance area:** This stretch allows the driver time to search the freeway and evaluate how much space they have to enter and what speed is needed.
- **Acceleration area:** The driver brings the vehicle up to the speed of freeway traffic flow.
- **Merge area:** The driver uses this space to merge into the traffic flow.

## Lesson three – merging

Teach the steps for merging onto a freeway:

- Check for on-ramp speed signs.
- At the entrance area, make quick glances at the freeway, scanning for vehicles and entry gaps.
- In the acceleration area, signal to show intent to enter the freeway and adjust speed to match the traffic flow.
- In the merge area, enter the flow of traffic, checking mirrors and blind spots.
- Turn off the turn signal and begin looking ahead to anticipate problems or upcoming lane changes.
- Do not completely stop in the entrance area unless absolutely necessary.



*There is plenty of time to merge. If a gap doesn't present itself immediately, adjust your speed in order to find one.*

## Lesson four – exiting

Teach the steps for exiting a freeway:

- Identify the exit well ahead of time.
- Scan traffic for problems when approaching the exit, but don't slow down on the freeway.
- Start to signal four to six seconds before reaching the ramp.
- Upon entering the ramp, tap the brakes and begin rapidly reducing speed.
- Slow down to the posted exit ramp speed limit before reaching the curve.
- Practice both merging and exiting 10-12 times each, or more if needed, for your teen to feel comfortable.

### Worthy of repetition

Practice merging and exiting 10–12 times each, or more if needed for your teen to feel comfortable. Keep coaching your teen that constant awareness and looking ahead are the keys to learning to drive safely.

### Skill completed

supervisor initials

driver initials

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**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** ★

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# Freeway driving – part two

**Goal:** Teach your teen to maneuver safely in complex freeway driving environments at higher speeds.

**Location:** Start on a multi-lane freeway with easily-accessible exits, at a time when traffic is light, such as a weekend morning. Move on to practice at heavier traffic times when your teen is ready.

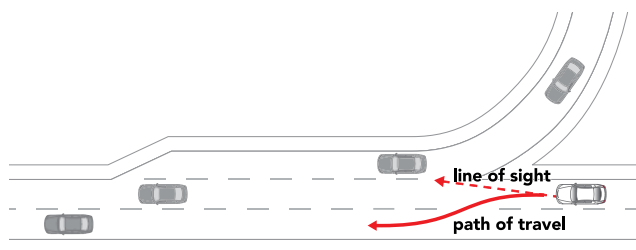
## Lesson one – steering technique

Once on the freeway, coach your teen on steering technique. At fast freeway speeds, excessive steering can be dangerous and lead to loss of control. Remind your teen to steer gently on freeways.

## Lesson two – lane changing

In the high-speed, complex freeway environment, lane-changing skills are very important. Have your teen spend several miles practicing the lane-changing and passing skills previously learned in “Skill Nine: multi-lane roads,” until they are comfortable performing them at freeway speeds. Remind your teen to:

- Watch for merging vehicles and move one lane left to make space for them when needed.
- Change lanes one at a time only.
- Watch mirrors for tailgaters and move to another lane to let them pass.



*For the first several lane changes you may need to talk your teen through the decision-making process. Double-check all mirrors to make sure that the lane is clear.*

### Higher order

Early in the training process, parental instruction tends to focus on vehicle handling. As your teen’s skills improve, try to focus on “higher order” instruction, such as scanning ahead, hazard detection, and anticipating other drivers’ behavior.

## Lesson three – three-second rule

Review the three-second rule for following distance, learned in “Skill Six: looking ahead.” Additionally, coach your teen to use a three-second rule for these freeway driving circumstances:

- Merging onto a freeway
- Changing lanes
- Exiting a freeway

## Lesson four – challenging road conditions

Coach your teen to adjust travel speed and vehicle position based on weather and road conditions.

Once your teen is comfortable with and proficient at freeway driving in good conditions, spend some practice time on freeways under more challenging conditions, such as rain. Coach them to always use appropriate caution, as conditions can change quickly.

## Lesson five – road trips

Consider planning some short day trips with your teen to a destination two to three hours away. Have them drive there and back. Find an event or place that you will both enjoy and have fun.

### Skill completed

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supervisor initials

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driver initials

#RoadReady

# Roundabouts

**Goal:** Teach your teen how to enter and drive roundabouts safely.

**Location:** A road that leads to a one-lane roundabout. Move on to practice at two or more lane roundabouts when your teen is ready.

Roundabouts are circular intersections designed to calm traffic, increase safety, reduce stop-and-go travel, and decrease traffic delays. Roundabouts have proven to be an efficient means to move traffic through congested intersections and have shown to reduce crashes by half (all but eliminating the more severe broadside and head-on collisions). Roundabouts also offer a safe environment for pedestrians, who only have to navigate one-way traffic flow.

Driving in a roundabout can be intimidating, but it's really quite simple when you know how it works.

## Lesson one – five easy steps

- **Slow down:** Speeds of 15 mph or less are adequate in the roundabout.
- **Yield:** Vehicles must yield to the left before entering a roundabout.
- **Don't stop:** Never stop once inside the roundabout. The vehicle in the roundabout has the right of way.
- **Follow signs:** Look for destination signs and exit in that direction.
- **Exit:** Look to your right, check your mirror and use your turn signal.

## Lesson two – emergency vehicles

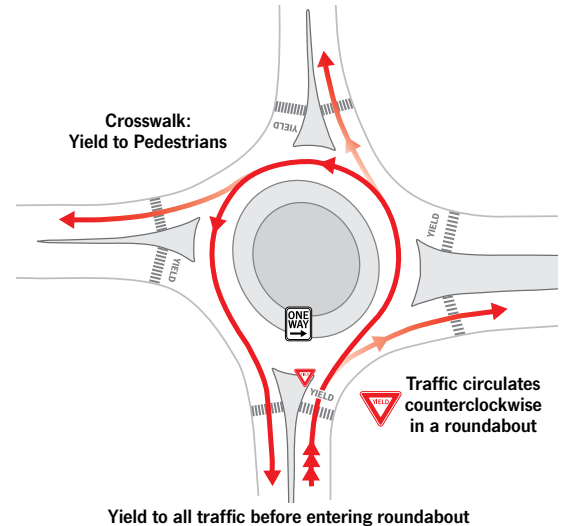
- If you have not entered the roundabout, pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- If you have entered the roundabout, continue to your exit, then pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- Avoid stopping in the roundabout.

## Lesson three – two or more lane roundabouts

- As you approach, observe the signs and arrows to determine which lane to use before entering.
- Black and white signs on the side of the road and white arrows on the road will show the correct lane to use.
- If you want to make a left turn, stay in the left lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as a left turn.
- To make a right turn, stay in the right lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as a right turn lane.
- If you want to go straight, observe the signs and arrows to see what lane is correct.

### Yield the right-of-way

As a rule of thumb, when entering or driving through a roundabout, always yield to traffic on your left.



*This example shows the traffic movement patterns through a one-lane roundabout. The one-lane roundabout is known as one of the safest and most efficient intersections.*

Skill completed

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady



# Continuing education

Learning doesn't stop when your teen has received their license. It's important to continue teaching and building upon the skills they have learned. As you continue the supervision process, think about these three areas of focus:

- **Spend as much time as possible driving with your teen.**
- **Drive in a wide variety of conditions** (weather, time of day, different traffic volumes, etc.).
- **Focus on "higher level" learning:** scanning ahead, recognizing hazards, and learning to anticipate the behavior of other drivers.

Now that your teen has become proficient in the basic operational skills of driving, it is essential that they be exposed to a wide variety of driving circumstances and conditions. Make a point of driving with them in different situations that they have not yet experienced, and do it for all types of roads – quiet neighborhood streets, multi-lane roads, and highways. Drive with them at different times of the day, in poor weather, and with varying levels of traffic. It's much better that they experience these conditions with you, rather than alone or with other teens.

Much of what has been discussed to this point has related specifically to the basic skills your teen will need to be a safe driver. Now, your goal is to ensure your teen is thinking intelligently and making the right decisions as a driver. Sometimes after teens become proficient with the basic skills, parents/guardians will often "step back," becoming less involved in their teen's supervision. But there's still a lot to learn; their teen's education is not complete.

Be clear with your teen that the training process is ongoing and that you will continue to provide input into their development so that you both stay in the learning/teaching mode.

Even the best new drivers are likely to make mistakes. These mistakes are great teachable moments for "higher order" instructions. So instead of saying, "Stop sooner," advise your teen to try to focus on looking ahead and anticipating events, with an emphasis on good judgment, good decision making, and hazard perception. The shift from a basic comment to a more advanced focus is perhaps the most essential element of educating your teen at this point in the learning process.

As your teen drives, talk to them about specific hazard areas, possible areas of conflict, and blind spots where trouble may hide. Teens tend to be less skilled at anticipating these trouble areas than experienced drivers. A good exercise is to have your teen describe the blind spots and possible areas of conflict they see. It will let you know that they are thinking, anticipating, and driving intelligently.

## New vehicle technology

There is an ever-increasing amount of safety technology in today's cars. Features like automatic emergency braking, blind spot monitoring, and forward collision warning keep us all safer, but only if they're used correctly. It's important to understand how these advanced driver assistance features work and their limitations. A key point is to remember these are driver "assistance" features and not driver "replacement" features.

The easiest way to ensure you're using everything right is to carefully review your car's manual. Read about any features that are new to you and make sure you know how they work. If you still have questions, then reach out to the dealership so they can explain. Once you understand the technology, share that information with your teen driver so they understand it, too.

Check out this website for additional information: <https://mycardoeswhat.org/safety-features/>

### Keep on coachin'

Even after your teen is licensed, use your time driving with them to instill habits of good judgment, accurate hazard anticipation, and smart decision-making. Remember that crash rates are highest in the first months of licensure. Your role is still vital even after your teen receives his or her license!

# Practice in other conditions

For new drivers, it can be challenging to drive in new and unfamiliar conditions such as inclement weather, different times of day, and varying traffic volume. It's best that you provide guidance before they experience these conditions on their own.

## Night driving

A driver's reaction depends on their vision, which is limited at night, making it difficult to make judgments and see pedestrians, bicyclists, and other obstacles. Some tips to keep in mind:

- Glare from headlights makes it difficult to see. Looking toward the right side of the road and flipping the rearview mirror can help to reduce headlight glare.
- Headlights should be turned on before the sun goes down to make the car more visible.
- High beams should only be used when other drivers won't see them, there is no oncoming traffic.
- To compensate for reduced visibility, drive more slowly and at a greater following distance.

## Wet/slippery roads

To reduce risk on wet and slippery roads, coach your teen to practice the following:

- Turn on the wipers as soon as the windshield becomes wet.
- Turn on the low-beam headlights; this helps others see you.
- Drive 5 to 10 mph slower than normal and increase your following distance to 5 or 6 seconds.
- Be more cautious, and slow down on curves and when approaching intersections.
- Turn the defroster on to keep windows from fogging over.
- Cruise control should never be used on wet roadways.

If you must make adjustments while driving, make sure the road ahead is clear before looking down at the dashboard — and look away for only a second or two.

## Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning occurs as a result of water on the road that is deeper than the tire tread. This reduces friction and can result in the loss of control. If you can see deep water, reflections on the pavement, or the car ahead leaves no tracks on the water, these are indications your car could hydroplane. Slow down.

## Fog

Use low-beam lights or fog lights if your vehicle has them. Don't use high beams — they reflect off the fog causing reduced visibility. Slow down until your speed matches your ability to see, even if it means slowing to a crawl.

## Snow

Make sure your vehicle is clear of snow and ice before driving. Driving can cause snow/ice to slide and block your view, or fly off and strike other vehicles. Other tips to keep in mind:

- When starting to drive in snow, keep the wheels straight and accelerate gently to avoid spinning the tires.
- Decrease your speed to make up for a loss of traction. Accelerate and brake gently.
- Stopping distances can be 10 times greater in ice and snow. Begin the slowing-down process long before a stop. Brake only when traveling in a straight line.
- Look ahead for danger spots, such as shaded areas and bridge surfaces that may be icy when the rest of the road is clear.
- Stay far behind the vehicle ahead so you will not need to come to a sudden stop, which can cause skidding.

### Drowsy driving

Staying alert means focusing on the road and not driving when fatigued. Review signs of drowsy driving, such as difficulty focusing, frequent blinking, frequent yawning or drifting from your lane. Remind your teen to take a break after driving for 2 hours, or after 100 miles. Teens should avoid driving at times they would normally be sleeping.

# Sharing the road

## School buses

Always be cautious around school buses and know when the law requires you to stop for one that is loading or unloading students. Vehicles behind a bus that is loading or unloading students must always stop. Opposing traffic does not need to stop on highways with four or more lanes if two lanes are going in each direction.

## Motorcycles

Motorists must be on the lookout for motorcycles and anticipate sudden and unexpected moves from them. Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane width as other vehicles.

Motorcycles are smaller, harder to see, and can move faster and stop faster than expected. Their control is more easily hampered by road defects and debris. You should watch for motorcycles, use extra caution when driving around them and increase your following distance.

## Trucks

If you cut in front of another vehicle, you may create an emergency-braking situation for the vehicles around you, especially in heavy traffic. Trucks and buses take much longer to stop in comparison to cars. When passing, look for the front of the truck in your rearview mirror before pulling in front, and avoid braking situations.

Large trucks have blind spots, or “no-zones,” around the front, back, and sides of the vehicle. These no-zones make it difficult for the driver to see. Avoid being caught in a truck’s no-zone. If you can’t see the truck driver in the truck’s mirror, the truck driver can’t see you.

Be careful of trucks making wide right turns. If you try to get in between the truck and the curb, you’ll be caught in a “squeeze” crash. Truck drivers sometimes need to swing widely to the left in order to safely negotiate a right turn. They can’t see cars directly behind or beside them. Cutting in between the truck and the curb increases the possibility of a crash. So pay attention to truck signals, and give them lots of room to maneuver.

## Work zones

Work zones can be very dangerous, especially when traveling on the highway. It’s important to be alert and prepared to slow down or stop. Slowing down and allowing others to merge will ensure a safe passage through work zones. Here are a few tips on work zone safety:

- **Stay alert and follow posted speed limits:** Work zones are busy places where construction vehicles and workers are always moving. Be alert, and stay on the safe path that is designated throughout the work zone. Remember: speed limits are reduced in work zones for a reason.
- **Take your cues from trucks:** Work zones often pop up suddenly. If you are not paying attention to the signs, you could find yourself in a serious crash. Since trucks have a height advantage and can see ahead of traffic, their brake light activity can provide a good signal of a slow-down or work zone ahead. Truck drivers know the stopping limitations of their trucks and pay close attention to traffic.
- **Merge gently:** Aggressive drivers can be extremely dangerous while driving in work zones. Work zones require time and courtesy. For a smooth passage through work zones, allow others to merge in front of you. Be especially considerate of trucks; they require more space to merge and are the least maneuverable vehicles on the road.
- **Safe distance:** Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you, and keep a safe distance between you and workers on or near the roadway.

### Work zones

Expect the unexpected. Follow the posted speed limit and pay attention. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you, and keep a safe distance between you and workers on or near the roadway.

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

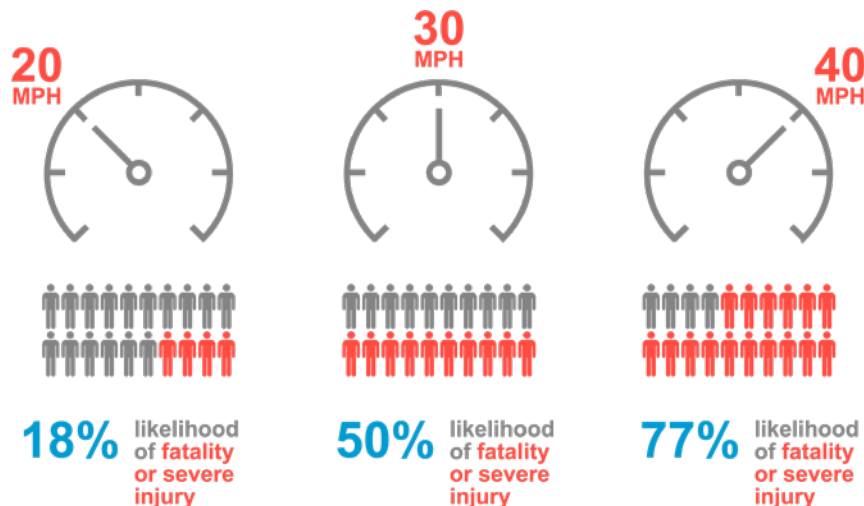
# Sharing the road with bicyclists and pedestrians

## Respect for all road users

Put yourself in the shoes of a person walking or biking. We are all trying to safely get to our destination. Respect and kindness towards other road users can go a long way.

- **Scan the street for wheels and feet:** Be especially careful to look for people walking and biking before turning at intersections and driveways.
- **Yield to pedestrians:** Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections – it's the law. Crosswalks exist at all intersections, even when unmarked. Always look for pedestrians especially before turning at a light. Stay alert and slow down, particularly in residential areas, school zones and commercial areas. Children, particularly, have not yet developed the cognitive skills to calculate speed and distance.
- **Double threat:** Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down for a pedestrian. Remember, you might not be able to see the pedestrian when you approach a stopped vehicle so be aware.
- **Watch for bicycles:** People riding bicycles have the right to be on the road (and are often prohibited from riding on sidewalks), so respect their right to be there. Children on bikes can be unpredictable, slow down and use extra caution. Don't expect children to know traffic laws. Because of their size they can be harder to see. Reduce your speed when encountering and don't tailgate, especially in bad weather.
- **Passing safely:** Stay at least 4 feet away from bicyclists (and other vulnerable road users, such as garbage collectors, police officers, and tow truck operators) when passing, and don't return to the right until well clear of the person. If there isn't enough room to safely pass in the same lane, you must use another lane or wait for a safe opportunity to pass. Do not pass a person on a bike and then immediately turn right.
- **Avoid the "right hook":** Look for and yield to people biking on the right when turning right.
- **Avoid the "left cross":** Look for and yield to people walking across the street and yield to oncoming people on bikes when turning left.
- **Visibility:** Look for bicyclists at night and watch for their reflectors or lights.
- **Check blind spots:** Watch for bicyclists coming from behind, especially before turning right.
- **Doors are dangerous:** Before opening your car door, look in your mirror and physically turn your body to make sure no bicyclists are coming. Learn more here: <http://www.dutchreach.org/dutch-reach-practice-tips-door-latch-reminders>

## Lowering speeds can save lives



Source: *Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death*. Brian Tefft, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2011



# Final tips for parents...

1. The longer a teen holds their Learner's Permit, the less risk of crashing. Aim for 12 months instead of 6 months of supervised driving.
2. Consistent and varied practice can reduce your teen's crash risk. Practice driving regularly on different roads, even if you're going to and from the same place.
3. Think hard about your teen's access to a vehicle. Consider your teen sharing access to the family car, instead of getting them their own car. It is best for teens to have limited access to a car in the first months of licensure. This can reduce their risk of crashing.
4. Parents should continue to drive with their teens after they get their license! Stay involved, and try to be aware of each trip they're taking in that first year of independent driving.

**Our thanks** to Dr. Jonathon Ehsani and the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for these tips and their ongoing research to eliminate teen crashes.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Before they drive off into adulthood.

When your kids start driving, you suddenly realize how close they are to becoming adults. State Farm® is here to help with teen driver programs and additional savings for safe driving. Talk to an agent or get a quote at [statefarm.com](https://statefarm.com)®.

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