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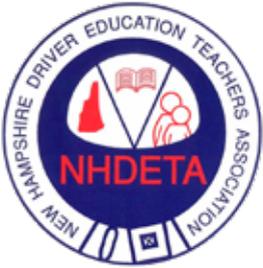


# The **PARENT'S** Supervised Driving Program

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



A PROGRAM OF THE NH DRIVER  
EDUCATION TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

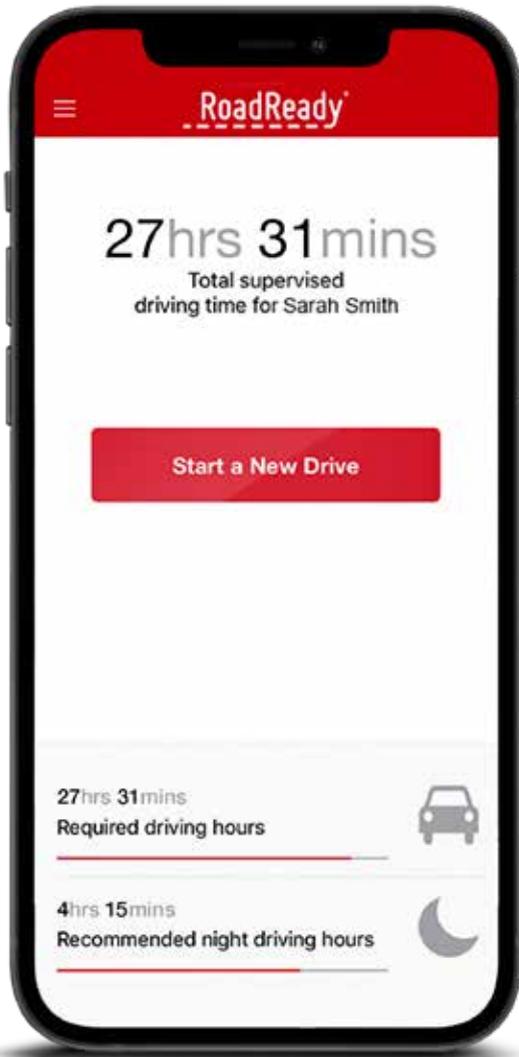


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## LOG YOUR DRIVES. FOCUS ON YOUR TEEN.



Teaching your teen to drive presents enough challenges. With RoadReady, your focus can remain where it needs to be: on your teen and on the road. “Start a New Drive” and RoadReady will log the rest. Download your log to verify you’ve completed your state requirement.

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

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# A message to parents and guardians



On behalf of the NH Division of Motor Vehicles, I want to thank you for making safe driving a priority for you and the new drivers that you will be introducing to this next exciting chapter of learning how to properly and safely operate a vehicle.

Driving represents such an incredible freedom to be able to pursue many of the things that allow for a fulfilling life, such as traveling to see family and friends, maintaining a job, and visiting familiar places and exploring new ones. With this freedom comes great responsibility to ensure that the rules of the road are followed, so that drivers, passengers, and everyone sharing our roadways remains safe.

Taking the time to speak with your new driver about the information contained within this manual will help establish a strong foundation for making proper driving decisions and a mindset that is focused on being a courteous and safe driver.

By your taking the time to review this manual and familiarizing yourself with the DMV-provided Driver's Manual, you will be provided with many "best practices" associated with teaching a new driver how to drive, and you will have the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the current driving laws that exist in the State of New Hampshire.

Thank you again for taking on this role to help the next generation of drivers be successful and safe throughout their driving careers and for working to ensure that these new drivers always strive to "Be a leader on the roadway!"

Safe travels and all the best,

**John C. Marasco**  
Director of Motor Vehicles  
State of New Hampshire  
Department of Safety  
Division of Motor Vehicles

The New Hampshire Driver Education Teachers Association is excited to provide you with *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* manual.

This guide focuses on the critical role of the parent in the teen driver education process and encourages parents and teens to drive together in a variety of weather conditions and in unfamiliar settings, be it rural roads, highways, in cities and in other heavy traffic situations. The manual's design provides important instructional modules which contain information on how and where to complete the lesson for maximum success. Allowing your teen to spend as much time as possible behind the wheel will increase the development of their driving skills.

The purpose of driver education is to instill safe driving habits that last a life time. By offering an enhanced supervised driving experience, we hope that parents and guardians will extend the supervised driving period beyond the state requirement of 40 hours.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teen deaths. Roadway safety in New Hampshire is dependent on the behavior of each individual driver. Your commitment to assist your child in maximizing this learning experience is commendable. The time you spend teaching your teen how to drive might just save their life.

The NHDETA is proud to be a partner in creating safer roadways for all of us.



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**UNCOMMON  
IS CALLING**



Programs and Benefits Subject to Change

## 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 teen's 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 their driving time. RoadReady tracks your teen's driving hours until they reach the state requirements. You can print out the log straight from the app.

3. Your teen can turn in their log when applying for their license.



This program is also available online at:

**PSDPonline.com**

## 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



**X (formerly Twitter)**

www.twitter.com/PSDP\_Info



**Instagram**

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# Quick tips for parents and caregivers...

Here are the most important tips that you should keep in mind as your teen starts their supervised driving journey. These tips apply on those very first days of driving, and into your child's young adulthood as independent drivers.

1. **Take it seriously:** Car crashes are the second leading cause of death for people ages 16–24. The more parents/caregivers are involved, the less likely it is that your teen will crash.
2. **Be a good role model** and remember that making your teen practice a skill over and over again is the best practice.
3. **Before you drive:** walk around the car with your teen, explain the importance of tire health, review seating position, mirror settings, identify blind spots, etc.
4. **Plan ahead:** consider when and where to start the first driving lesson — a large, level, and empty parking lot at a time when no one is stressed out. Review the necessary skills the night before planning to take your teen out for their first time behind the wheel.
5. **Progress through the skills:** follow this guidebook in order as your teen advances in their comfort and skill level. **Remember that they should not advance to the next skill/s until they have practiced the previous skills many times.**
6. **Encourage as much supervised driving as possible**, in many different conditions and on different road types. They will know how to steer into a skid on an icy road only if they have practiced it with you.
7. **GDL laws, such as passenger restrictions and curfews, are there for a reason:** read through your states' restrictions for when your teen has their permit AND when newly licensed. These are in place to protect your teen!
8. Download and **use the RoadReady mobile app** ([roadreadyapp.com](http://roadreadyapp.com)) to track your teen's driving hours. It's easy to use, completely free, and helps ensure that your teen completes the required number of hours.

# 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 will be that 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 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." Give the direction with enough time for your teen to process and safely execute the maneuver.
- **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. Bringing up touchy subjects such as grades, homework, boyfriends/girlfriends, etc. can distract both 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 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. This would be necessary if the accelerator becomes stuck.



**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. Remember that you are a second set of eyes and ears, and you need to be alert and ready to help 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.

## Commentary driving

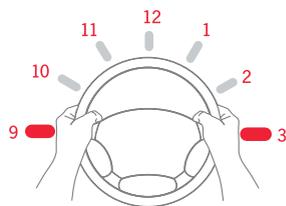
Commentary driving is a great communication tool. Coach your teen to describe their actions, thoughts and observations out loud as they drive, similar to a sports commentator. Throughout the learning process, ask them to verbalize what they see around them, including potential risks and any steps they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

## 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 steer 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.*



*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 seat 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.

# Teens' biggest dangers

Newly licensed teens crash much more often than older, more experienced drivers. Below are the circumstances that are the most common trouble areas for young drivers:

## Seat belts

**It's a shocking statistic, but 51% of teen drivers killed in 2022 were unbuckled.** Seat belts stop you from being thrown out of the vehicle, and help you stay seated and in control of the vehicle. They also stop you from hitting the windshield, dashboard, steering wheel, or other hard parts of the vehicle. Hitting the windshield at 30 mph is like falling from the third story of a building and hitting the pavement. 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 [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts)

## Speeding

We have seen a disturbing increase in speeding in the last several years. According to NHTSA, in 2021, speeding was a factor in 32% of fatal crashes among teen drivers 15 to 18 years-old. The rate of these fatalities among males was nearly double that of females. Spend time talking to your teen about speeding, and serve as a role model by following the speed limit yourself. Lastly, studies show that teens are less likely to speed if they drive the family car, instead of having their own vehicle.

## 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. In 2021, 27% of drivers aged 15 to 20 years who died in crashes had Blood Alcohol Contents (BAC) of .01 g/dL or higher. Marijuana is the drug that's most commonly found in the blood of drivers who have been in a car crash. It is important to enforce a zero-tolerance policy at home. If your teen uses any alcohol or drugs, they cannot drive, nor should they ride with anyone who has been drinking or using drugs — in any amount.

## 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% 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 become a truly good driver. Until teens are much more experienced, they run a greater risk of crashing, getting hurt, and potentially dying. A driver's license makes them a driver. Experience helps them become safer 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 higher 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. And 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.

## If you feel different, you drive different

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 affect people differently. The best rule is this: do not have drugs or alcohol if you plan to drive.

## 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. According to a CDC survey, in 2019, 39% of high school students who drove in the past 30 days texted or emailed while driving on at least one of those days.
- According to NHTSA, in 2022, 3,308 people were killed in distraction-related crashes nationwide, with teens having the highest rate of distracted driving crashes resulting in 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.

There are three kinds of distractions:

- Visual – doing something that requires the driver to look away from the driving task.
- Manual – doing something that requires the driver to take one or both hands off the wheel.
- Cognitive – doing something that causes the driver's mind to wander or focus elsewhere.

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% 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 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 seat belts, not speeding, not driving after drinking or using any drugs, 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, 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 still 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 adjusting the temperature. Coach them repeatedly on the importance of focusing on the road ahead.



# CHOOSING A COLLEGE? START MAKING A LIST!

Choose **Community** and you just might check all the boxes.

**F**or many high school graduates, it can be difficult to identify “the perfect school.” There are so many factors to consider, along with loads of information to gather and evaluate. That’s why creating a list of “must-haves” is often a great place to start. To help in that exercise (we’re always here to help!), we’ve put together a list of our own to make the decision process just a little bit easier.



## COLLEGE SCORECARD

- ACADEMICS**  
Programs designed to prepare you for today’s job market? Small classes with real learning? Exceptional faculty who make your success the priority? Check, check and check.
- LOCATION**  
A high-quality education close to home? With seven community colleges and 11 locations across the Granite State, New Hampshire Community Colleges certainly check this box.
- VALUE**  
The lowest college tuition in New Hampshire + scholarship assistance + financial aid = unbeatable value.
- INTERESTING COURSES/PROGRAMS**  
Over 200 degree and certificate programs in high-demand fields. Now that certainly sounds interesting.
- STUDENT LIFE**  
Dozens of student clubs and organizations, health & wellness programs, Student Government, athletic opportunities and countless student services create a rich experience well beyond the classroom.
- A WARM WELCOME FOR ALL**  
All of our colleges are 100% committed to creating a welcoming environment and providing opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and communities.

When you’re ready to start making your own list, be sure to put  
New Hampshire community colleges at the top.

Learn more at [ChooseCommunity.com](http://ChooseCommunity.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 and steering wheel controls
- Checking oil level
- Checking wiper fluid
- Checking tire pressure

## 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 sit up straight in the driver's seat and adjust the left mirror so that's it's level and they can see a small portion of the driver side of the car. If applicable, the rear door handle should be in the lower right area of the mirror.
- **Right-side mirror:** Do the same to the right. Have your teen sit up straight in the driver's seat and adjust the right mirror so that's it's level and they can see a small portion of the passenger side of the car. If applicable, the rear door handle should be in the lower left area of the mirror.

## 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. Blind spots should be checked every time you change lanes.

## Lesson four – seating position

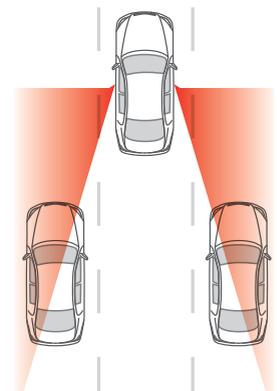
A proper seat position is critical to maintaining control of the vehicle. Your teen should sit with their back firmly against the seat. There should be at least 10 inches between the steering wheel and the driver's chest, with the air bag pointing at the chest. The top of the steering wheel should be no higher than the shoulders. Move the seat forward or backward so that the driver's heel touches the floor and can pivot quickly 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 settings

In the past, drivers were often taught mirror settings that created an overlap between the rear and side mirrors. This is actually less safe because it increases the size of the blind spots. 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

#RoadReady

# 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.

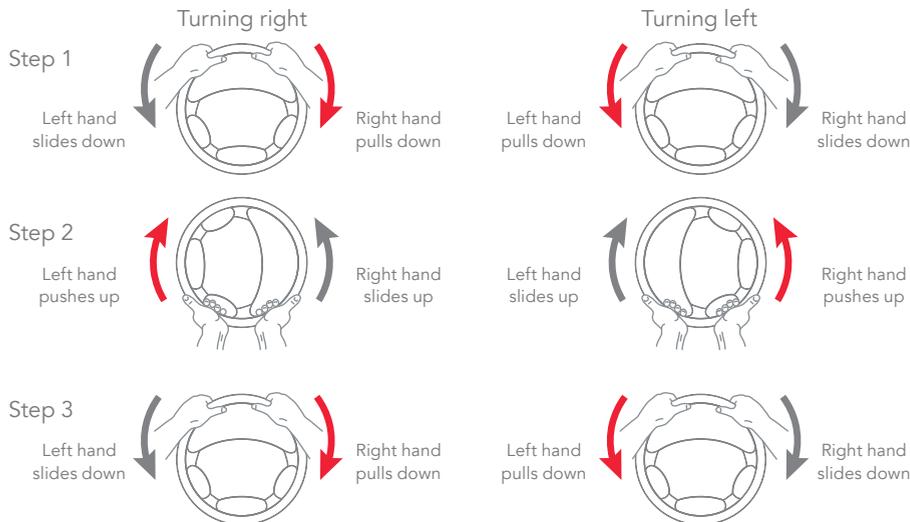
Pick several targets in the large, level, empty practice area, and have your teen drive to them at specific speeds. For example, "Drive to the stop sign at 15 mph." Focus on steady speed and smooth starts and stops.

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 accelerator 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 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

#RoadReady

# How close are you?

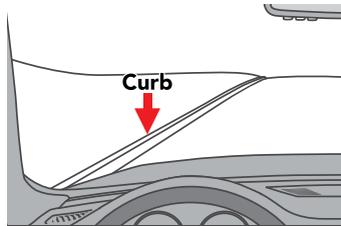
**Goal:** Teach your teen how to tell where their vehicle is in relation to other vehicles or objects.

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

## Lesson one – 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.

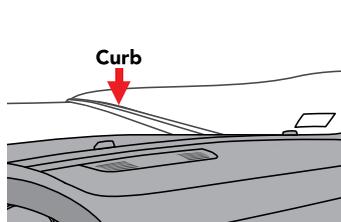
## Lesson two – driver's side curb (or line)



*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.

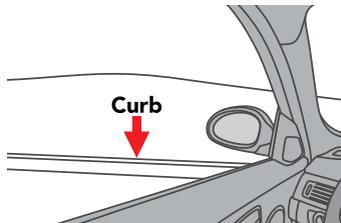
## Lesson three – passenger's side curb (or line)



*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.

## Lesson four – 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 driver 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 6 months to complete 50 hours of practice driving. For 100 hours, it's more than 30 minutes a day for 6 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 to first search around the vehicle before entering to identify potential hazards that may not be visible once they are in their seat. Then teach your teen that they must always turn around and look backwards through the rear window when backing up. They should also use their mirrors and back-up camera.
- Have your teen shift their hips and turn around until they get a good view behind the vehicle. When backing up to the right, they should drape their right arm over the back of the seat and grasp the top of the steering wheel with their left hand. When backing up to the left they should look over their left shoulder.

## Lesson two – backing up in a straight line

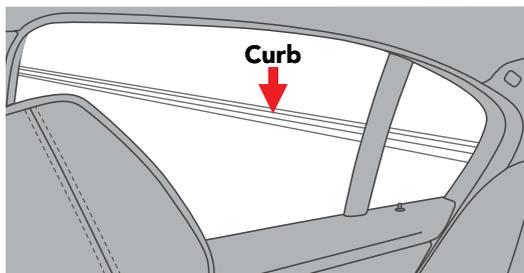
- Review how to use the backup camera with your teen, including what the different lines mean. Always remember that a camera cannot be a substitute for your eyes — it is only meant as an additional tool to use when backing up.
- Check all areas behind the vehicle prior to and while backing up.
- Grasp 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 the 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 it is important to back up slowly and be prepared to stop. It is 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 right-of-way 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 3) throughout this lesson, if possible.

## Lesson two – lane position

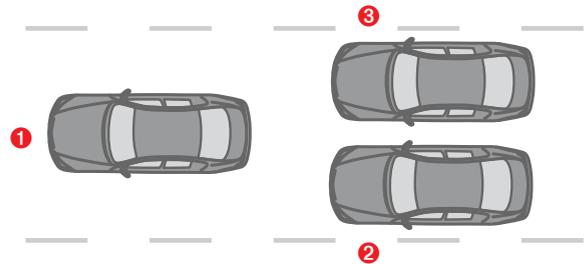
When you and your teen feel ready, move to a quiet street.

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 right-of-way.
- If turning, put on the turn signal four seconds before making the turn.
- If a stop is required, stop behind the white stop line or crosswalk, whichever comes first.
- Select the best lane for travel by reading signs and pavement markings.
- 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). Stay calm and pull over 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

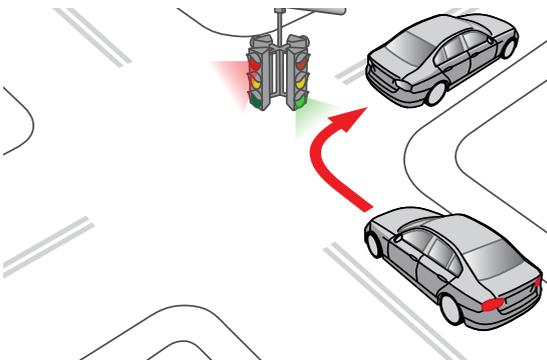
**Goal:** Teach your teen to turn both right and left safely and with confidence on quiet roads.

**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. Make sure to check for vulnerable users, such as bicyclists and pedestrians, 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 and make sure to stop before the stop line, crosswalk, or sidewalk, whichever is first.
- 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 but 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.

## Don't tailgate

Rear-end collisions are the most common form of 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.

## 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, intentions, and actions in order to identify potential risks they see, predict problems these risks could cause, decide what to do to avoid these problems, and then execute the maneuver.

## Lesson two – stopping-distance rule

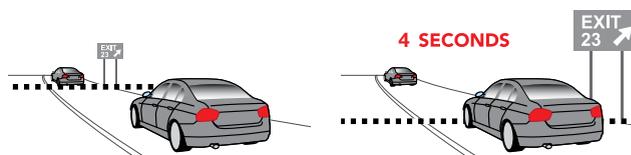
Teach your teen the stopping-distance rule, for the safest distance to stop behind another vehicle. When your vehicle stops, you should be far enough away from the car in front of you that you can see where its tires make contact with the ground. Any closer is too close.

## Lesson three – four-second rule

Teach your teen the four-second rule for the appropriate following distance when driving behind other vehicles. The four-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, one thousand FOUR." If the road is wet, add on an additional second. If you drive an SUV or heavier vehicle, add an additional 1–2 seconds, as it will take your car longer to stop. Always err on the side of caution and allow for more space in front of you.
- Your front bumper should not pass that same object before you've reached "four."

Have your teen practice the four-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 "four."*

## 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. The less backing up, the better! Since that's not always possible, it's important to practice other ways to turn around.

## Lesson two – two-point turns

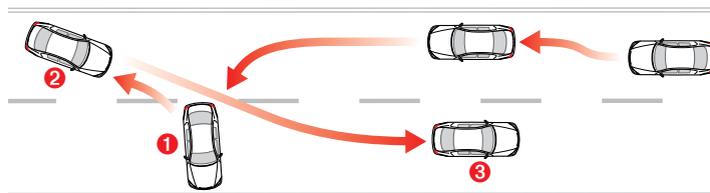
A two-point turn involves backing into a driveway to reverse direction. On a quiet street, have your teen identify an available driveway on the same side of the street as your car, at a point where they can see oncoming traffic for at least 200 feet.

- 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.



*Practice two-point and three-point turns at least 10 times each.*

## 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 traffic in both directions.
- 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

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

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## Supervised driving log

Parents or guardians are responsible for making certain that their teen has completed no less than 40 hours of supervised driving, with 10 of those hours completed between sunset and sunrise. The 40 hours can be completed with a licensed driver who is at least 25 years old. The following form 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.

In New Hampshire, the GDL rules apply to the holder of a youth operator license, which is defined as anyone under the age of 21. A youth operator — under the age of 18:

- May not drive between 1 AM – 4 AM.
- May not have more than 1 non-family passenger who is under the age of 25 for the first 6 months, unless accompanied by a licensed driver over 25.
- May not use any electronic device until they are over 18, and then only hands free. There is an exception to call 911.
- Is required to have a seat belt for every passenger.

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### 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.

Track your supervised  
drive time with

**RoadReady**<sup>®</sup>



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Robert L. Quinn  
Commissioner of Safety

State of New Hampshire  
NH Department of Safety  
Division of Motor Vehicles

23 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305  
Telephone: (603) 227-4000 TDD Access Relay NH 7-1-1



John C. Marasco  
Director of Motor Vehicles

**Certification of Additional Supervised Driving**

Full Name of Driver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

NH Law requires that in addition to a Driver Education program, an applicant under the age of 18 must complete a **minimum of 40 hours** of practice driving under the supervision of a licensed parent, guardian, or a licensed adult over the age of 25, and that **at least 10 hours of the supervised driving time shall be completed during the period from ½ hour after sunset to ½ before sunrise.**

We encourage practice driving as much as possible before applying for a driver license, which may include the time prior to taking a driver education course, as long as the driver is at least 15 years and 6 months of age, and is accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 25 years old, pursuant to RSA 263:25.

You may utilize the log below and on the reverse side to keep track of the driving hours.

Date	Time (AM/PM) Start / End	Cumulative Hours		Skill Practiced Ex: Highway, Parking, etc.	Parent or Guardian Initials
		Daytime	Nighttime		
<b>Total Time this page:</b>				<b>Please use reverse side if more space is needed.</b>	
<b>Total Time back page:</b>					
<b>Total Time Logged:</b>					

**CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT:** I certify that I have completed a minimum of 40 hours of practice driving with at least 10 of those hours taking place during the period from ½ hour after sunset to ½ before sunrise. **This authorization form is signed under penalty of unsworn falsification pursuant to RSA 641:3:**

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:** I certify that the applicant has completed a minimum of 40 hours supervised driving with at least 10 of those hours taking place during the period from ½ hour after sunset to ½ before sunrise. **This authorization form is signed under penalty of unsworn falsification pursuant to RSA 641:3:**

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

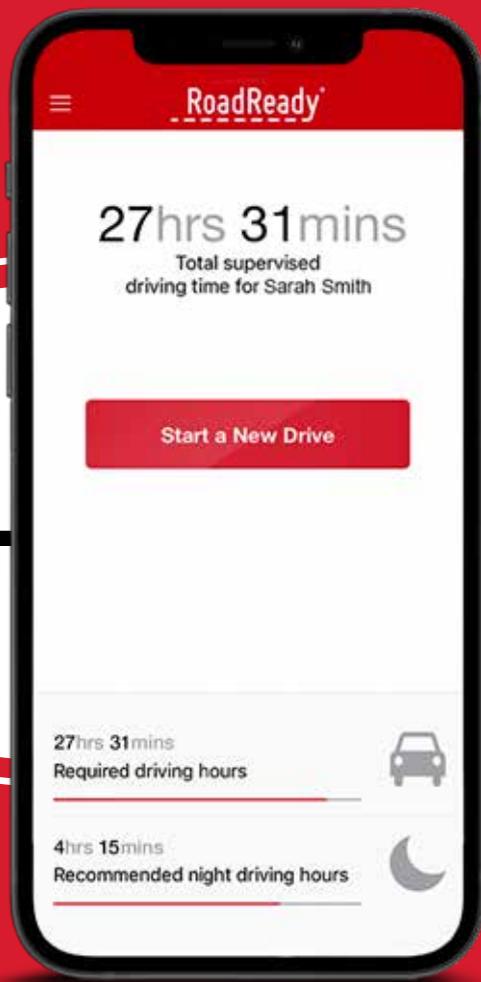




@PSDP\_Info thank you!

I love this app so much.

- Twitter Follower



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### -- SOCIAL

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

### -- SYNC

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

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# Parking – part one

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

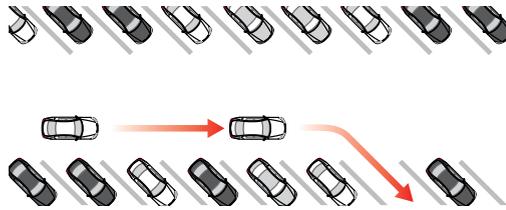
**Location:** Start in large, level, mostly empty areas. You will need angled and perpendicular spaces.

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

## Lesson one – angle parking

The gentler 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.
- Suddenly opening car doors can pose a very serious threat to bicyclists. When opening their car door, drivers and passengers should check the rear-view mirror, side-view mirror, then open the door with their far hand. For more information, see page 36.



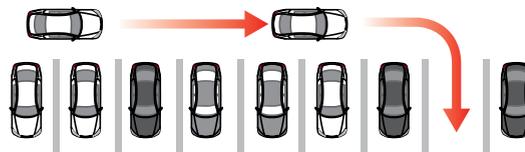
*Turn when the front of your vehicle reaches the edge of the space. Stay alert for cars backing out to leave their space.*

### Practice makes better

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.



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

## Lesson three – exiting

- With a foot on the brake, shift into reverse, which will signal that you will be backing up.
- Before moving, search all around your vehicle using your mirrors, backup camera, and looking over your shoulder side-to-side and behind.
- 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.

### Skill completed

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

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## Parking – part two

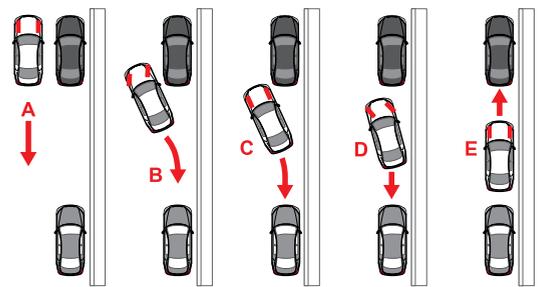
**Goal:** Teach your teen to master parallel parking.

**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.

- 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, 2–3 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.



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

### Lesson two – exiting a parking space

- With a foot on the brake, shift to reverse, turn around, and back as close as possible to the vehicle behind you.
- Turn steering wheel slightly to the right when backing out in order to move the front of the vehicle away from the curb.
- Check your side mirror and look over your shoulder for cyclists or fast-moving cars, then 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 – parking on a hill

Make sure the vehicle is in park and the parking brake is properly engaged. To prevent the vehicle from rolling into traffic, instruct your teen to turn the front wheels as follows:

- Toward the curb when parking downhill
- Away from the curb when parking uphill

If there is no curb, have your teen point the wheel so that the car would roll away from traffic if it moved.

### 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 sometimes. Coach them to pull out of the space and try again, adjusting their turning angle as needed.

### Skill completed

Supervisor initials \_\_\_\_\_

Driver initials \_\_\_\_\_

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# Driving on rural roads

**Goal:** Teach your teen to drive safely and with confidence on two-lane rural roads.

**Location:** A two-lane rural road.

## Lesson one – gravel roads

Gravel roads present their own special road safety challenge. The issue is traction. Driving on loose gravel is harder than driving on pavement because your tires don't have the traction needed to give you stable control. Slow down, avoid sudden turning, accelerate and brake slowly, and increase your following distance. Be particularly aware of gravel "windrows," piles of gravel near the road edge, used for highway maintenance.

## Lesson two – driving hazards

**Large/slow vehicles:** Slower trucks, farm vehicles, and road maintenance equipment are likely to make wide turns at unmarked entrances. Use caution and make sure the driver can see your vehicle before passing.

**Sharp drop-offs and gravel shoulders:** 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. If you run off the road, follow these steps to ease your vehicle back onto the road:

- Do not turn the wheel; continue driving straight.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Find a safe place to reenter the road and reenter the road when it is clear.
- In general, try to not apply brakes until regaining control of the vehicle.

**Restricted visibility:** Trees, cornfields, buildings, and hills can block a driver's view of oncoming traffic, or traffic entering from the side. Identify blind spots to better anticipate and be prepared for potential dangers.

**Uncontrolled intersections:** These are intersections not controlled by signs, signals, or pavement markings. Use caution, slow down, and check both ways twice. Proceed cautiously once there is no oncoming traffic. The vehicle on the left should yield.

**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.

If you see an animal, slow down and be prepared to stop. Always be on the lookout, especially at sunrise and sunset. October and November are peak months for deer crashes. Deer travel in groups; if you see one, look for more.

**Hills and curves:** These are often steeper and sharper on rural roads than on highways. Before reaching the crest of a hill, or entering a curve, slow down, move to the right side, and watch for traffic.

**Railroad crossings:** Always slow down, look both ways, listen, and be prepared to stop. On rural roads, many railroad crossings are marked only with a round yellow 'Railroad Crossing Ahead' warning sign and a white X-shaped railroad crossing. There may not be flashing lights, warning bells, crossing gates, or pavement markings. It is difficult to judge the speed of a train, so before you cross, make sure you don't see or hear a train either direction.

### 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 brake. As you release them, look where you want to go, and steer in that direction.

### Skill completed

Supervisor initials

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. When beginning, 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.

**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.

**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.

**Refer to Skill six.** Review the four-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.

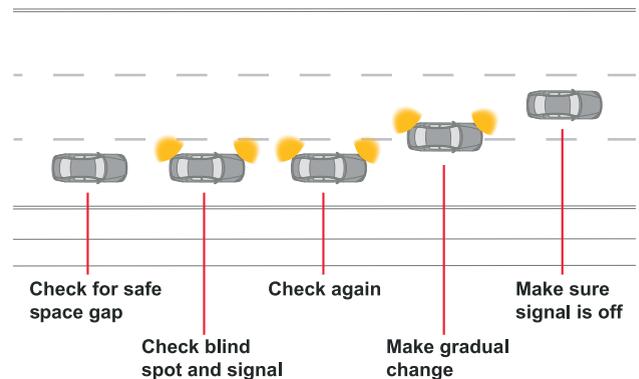
## Lesson one – safe lane changing

First, coach your teen not to change lanes unnecessarily. Studies show that while it may not look like it, most travel lanes flow at around the same rate. Changing lanes in an effort to save time doesn't actually save time, but it does increase crash risk.

Ask your teen to list valid reasons to change lanes. Good answers include: to make a turn, to avoid an obstacle, to exit the road, to park, or to pass another vehicle.

Have your teen practice these lane change steps until proficient:

- 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 into the new lane.
- Adjust following distance using the four-second rule.
- If applicable, familiarize your teen with the car's lane detection warning system.



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

## 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 bicyclists and motorcyclists a wide berth, and reduce your speed.

## Skill completed

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady

# 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.

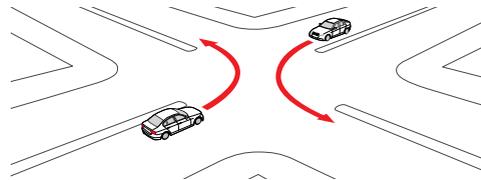
## Lesson one – right turns

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 until you feel confident that your teen is proficient.

## 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 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, cyclists, or pedestrians.
- When there is sufficient space with no oncoming traffic, move ahead into 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 the oncoming travel ahead to make sure there's plenty of space before you try to pass.
- Check mirrors and blind spots for oncoming traffic behind you.
- 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. Make sure to not exceed the speed limit when passing.
- 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. Have them practice judging oncoming vehicles' distance from your vehicle by counting out loud the time it takes for an oncoming vehicle to reach your car from a designated point.

Skill completed

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady

# 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

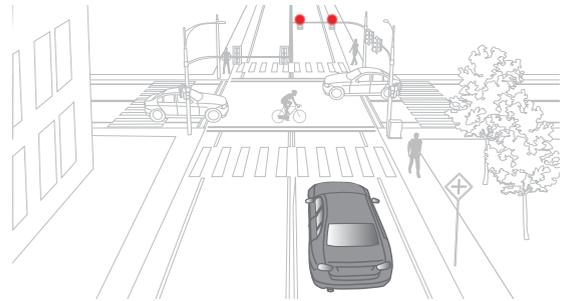
Since the busy, crowded environment of city driving is challenging for new drivers, this is a good time to review key driving skills. **One of the most important skills for drivers is the ability to make good decisions.** City driving forces drivers to make lots of decisions quickly. The three things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

## 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.



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

## 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 illegally, etc.
- Limited visibility and intersections spaced at shorter intervals
- Aggressive drivers competing for lane space and parking spots
- Stop-and-go traffic flow

## Scan first

Keep reminding your teen that constant awareness and looking ahead are key to driving safely on city streets. Emphasize the idea that a green light means, “Scan the intersection first, then go.”

## Skill completed

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady

# 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.

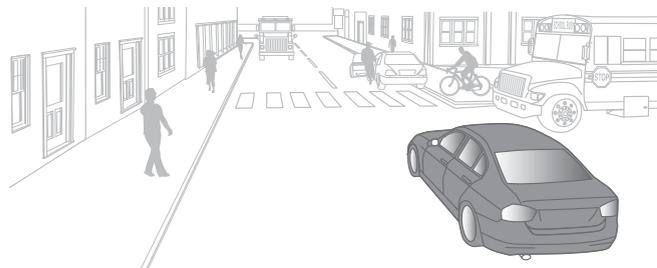
It can be tempting to pass vehicles on congested streets, when obstacles or traffic volume slow traffic. However, this can be dangerous, due to closely spaced intersections, irregular traffic flow, cars entering and exiting parking spots, etc. Coach your teen to avoid passing on busy city streets.

## 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:

- Talking, texting, or dialing a phone
- 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, or cognitive distractions, such as trying to solve a problem
- Putting on makeup or looking in the mirror

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.



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

### More is better

City driving skills take a long time to acquire. Spend as much time as possible driving in many circumstances with your teen. This should include driving at night and in inclement weather. Plan trips to less familiar places where you might not normally travel.

### Skill completed

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady

# Highway driving – part one

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

**Location:** Start on a multi-lane highway 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 highway, have your teen spend some time on highways with you as the driver and your teen as the passenger. Emphasize the importance of looking ahead to anticipate potential problems, and explain key highway features, such as:

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

## Lesson two – on-ramp segments

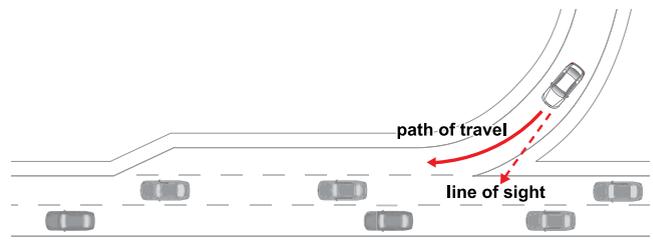
Explain the three segments of on-ramps, and how they're used:

- **Entrance area:** The driver searches the highway and evaluates how much space they have to enter and what speed is needed.
- **Acceleration area:** The driver brings the vehicle up to the speed of highway 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 highway:

- Check for on-ramp speed signs.
- Before the entrance area, make quick glances at the highway, scanning for vehicles and entry gaps.
- In the acceleration area, signal to show intent to enter the highway 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 as early as possible in order to find one.*

## Lesson four – exiting

Teach the steps for exiting a highway:

- Identify the exit well ahead of time.
- Scan traffic for problems when approaching the exit, but don't slow down on the highway.
- Start to signal four to six seconds before reaching the ramp.
- Upon entering the ramp, tap the brakes and begin to slow down to the posted exit ramp speed limit before reaching the curve. On some ramps, be prepared to rapidly reduce your speed.

### Worthy of repetition

Practice merging and exiting many times, until you feel confident that your teen is proficient. Keep coaching your teen that always being attentive and looking ahead are the keys to driving safely.

### Skill completed

Supervisor initials \_\_\_\_\_

Driver initials \_\_\_\_\_

#RoadReady

# Highway driving – part two

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

**Location:** Start on a multi-lane highway 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

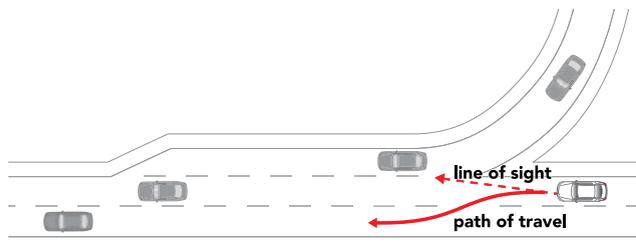
Once on the highway, coach your teen on steering technique. At fast highway speeds, excessive steering can be dangerous and lead to loss of control. Remind your teen to steer gently on highways.

## Lesson two – lane changing

In the high-speed, complex highway environment, lane-changing skills are very important. Have your teen spend lots of time practicing the lane-changing and passing skills previously learned in “Skill ten: multi-lane roads,” until they are comfortable performing them at highway speeds.

Remind your teen to:

- Watch for merging vehicles and move one lane to the 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. Grow comfortable with checking blind spots frequently to be aware of the traffic around you.
- Change lanes to move around any stopped vehicle with flashing lights, or vehicles stopped on the shoulder. Unless it’s absolutely necessary, never stop on the shoulder of a highway.



*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.*

## Lesson three – four-second rule

Review the four-second rule for following distance, learned in “Skill six: looking ahead.” At higher speeds it’s recommended to add more following distance. Additionally, coach your teen to also use a four-second rule for these highway driving circumstances:

- Merging onto a highway
- Changing lanes
- Exiting a highway

## 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 highway driving in good conditions, spend some practice time on highways 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.

### 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 the other drivers’ behavior.

### Skill completed

Supervisor initials

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 generally adequate in the roundabout.
- **Yield:** Vehicles entering must always yield to cars already in the roundabout. Look to your left for entering traffic.
- **Don't stop, stay in lane:** Don't stop once inside the roundabout. The vehicle in the roundabout has the right of way. Do not change lanes within the roundabout.
- **Follow signs:** Look for destination signs and exit in that direction.
- **Exit:** Look to your right, check your side mirror and use your turn signal.

## Lesson two – emergency vehicles

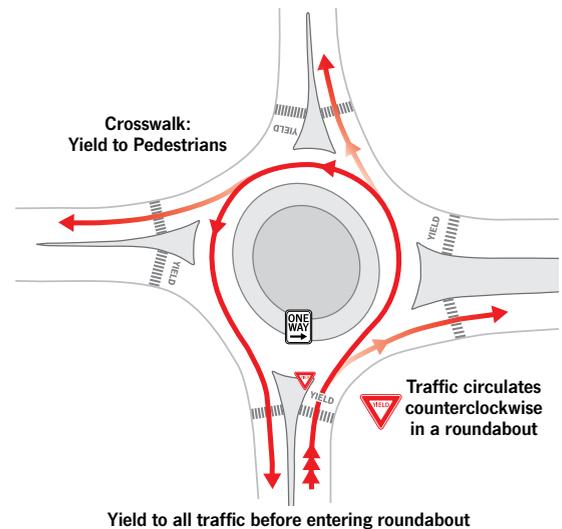
- If you have not entered the roundabout, pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- If you have entered the roundabout, continue to your exit, then pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- Avoid stopping in the roundabout.

## Lesson three – two or more lane roundabouts

- As you approach, observe the signs and arrows to determine which lane to use before entering.
- 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 which lane is correct.

### Yield the right-of-way

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



*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



# Adapting to new landscapes

## Mountain driving

Some hazards you should be aware of are steep hills, changing weather, wildlife, and rocks in the roadway. If your vehicle experiences difficulty traveling up steep roadways, pull off the road at the first place you may do so safely, or stay in the right lane to allow other vehicles to pass. Here are some added tips:

- Pay special attention to speed limit signs and warning signs, such as those warning of curves, steep hills, or other hazards.
- Watch for bicyclists near the right edge of the road.
- Use lower gear to control speeds while going up or down long, steep hills.
- You must yield to vehicles going uphill if you are traveling downhill on a narrow road.
- Do not coast downhill by shifting into neutral or disengaging the clutch.

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 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.

## Rural driving

When driving in rural or country areas, there are a number of special situations that require attention. Watch for driveways, farm equipment, railroad crossings that might not be marked, and bridges that are narrow and poorly surfaced. Some intersections may be hidden by trees, brush, and crops. Animals often are found wandering along the roadway. Extra care and slower speeds should be used when driving on gravel roads because of the reduced traction due to the road surface. The road surface can be affected by loose gravel, slippery conditions after rain or snow, ruts in the driving lanes, and washboard conditions. When approaching oncoming vehicles, watch for soft shoulders or the absence of shoulders.

## Safety around snowplows

When you see lights from a snow plow, slow down and use caution.

- **Give snowplows room to work:** They are wide and can cross the center line or shoulder.
- **Do not tailgate and avoid passing, especially on the right:** If you must pass, be extremely cautious and beware of the snow cloud.
- **Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops and turns:** A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don't always see you.

*Note: Four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles do not stop faster on ice and snow than two-wheel drive (2WD) vehicles. The heavier the vehicle, the longer it takes to stop, no matter the vehicle's wheels.*

## Overconfidence

After becoming proficient in basic driving skills, teens can become overconfident and begin to drive faster, follow other cars more closely, brake abruptly, etc. Gently and continuously remind your teen to stay four seconds back from other vehicles and always drive with caution.

## 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 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 conflicts 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: [mycardoeswhat.org/safety-features](http://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 in inclement weather, at different times of day, and with varying levels of 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 glare.
- Low-beam headlights should be on at all times, but are required at night.
- High beams should only be used when other drivers won't see them, such as on roads with little traffic.
- To compensate for reduced visibility, drive more slowly and at a greater following distance.

## Wet/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.
- Reduce your speed and increase your following distance to five or six seconds. When roads are wet, braking distance increases.
- Be more cautious, and slow down on curves and when approaching intersections.
- Turn the defroster on to keep windows from fogging over.

## Hydroplaning

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

## Fog

Use low-beam lights and 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

It's best to stay off the roads until they are cleared and treated. If you have to drive, 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.

- When starting to drive in snow, keep the wheels straight ahead and accelerate gently to avoid spinning the tires.
- Decrease your speed to make up for a loss of traction. Accelerate and decelerate gently, and be extra careful when braking.
- Stopping distances can be up to 10 times greater in ice and snow. Begin the slowing-down process long before a stop. Try to brake only when traveling in a straight line.
- Look ahead for dangerous 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, 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 asleep. Always increase following distance at night.

# Sharing the road

When driving on the highway, you are at a serious disadvantage if involved in a crash with a larger vehicle. In crashes involving large trucks, the occupants of a car — usually the driver — sustain 78% of fatalities.

In order to keep you and your teen safe on the road, you should be extra cautious when driving around large trucks and buses. Sharing the road with larger vehicles can be dangerous if you are not aware of their limitations. Here are a few tips to help you drive safer to prevent a crash, and minimize injuries and fatalities if one does occur.

## Cutting in front can cut your life short

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.

## Watch your blind spots – the “no-zones”

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-zones. If you can’t see the truck driver in the truck’s mirror, the truck driver can’t see you.

## Avoid squeeze play

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:** 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.
- **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, 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.

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

### 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.

# Sharing the road with bicyclists and pedestrians

- **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:** Pay attention to the pedestrian signal and give people walking the right-of-way.
- **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 bicyclists:** 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.
- **Passing safely:** Stay at least four 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 bicyclists 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 side mirror and physically turn your body to make sure no bicyclists are coming. Learn more here: [www.dutchreach.org/dutch-reach-practice-tips-door-latch-reminders](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

## 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.

## Speed is everything

When driving in highly trafficked areas, like urban and town centers, as well as arterial roads, your speed can be a matter of life and death for you, fellow motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Follow speed limits and respect all road users.

# Prevent and manage vehicle breakdowns

The most common reasons for breakdowns are related to failed tires, running out of gas, engine overheating, and dead batteries.

**Prevent tire-related breakdowns:** Taking good care of tires can prevent crashes, as well as breakdowns.

- Have tires inspected, rotated, and balanced by professionals every 5,000 miles.
- Check air pressure every month and before long trips. It is best to check pressure when tires are cold. Use a tire pressure gauge, and find the recommended PSI (Pounds per Square Inch) on the driver's side door jam or in the owner's manual (not from the pressure shown on the tire's sidewall).

**Manage tire-related breakdowns:** Have a fully inflated spare tire in your car.

**Prevent running out of gas:** Fill the tank when the gauge says  $\frac{1}{4}$  full. In winter, or in a rural area, keep the tank at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  full. Don't wait until the fuel light comes on; you could get stranded or break down in traffic.

**Manage running out of gas:** Adding gas works best when the car is on level ground.

**Prevent battery problems:** Car batteries usually last 3 to 5 years, depending on the climate.

- At first sign of weakness, have the battery checked, and replace it if weak.
- Look for illuminated battery light, slow engine crank, and dimming lights.
- Keep clamps to battery terminals tight so they cannot be moved by hand.

**Manage battery problems:** If the car doesn't start, it most likely means that its battery is dead or its clamps are loose. Stow 20 ft. long jumper cables in your trunk.

**Prevent engine overheating:** Having low coolant in the radiator is the most common cause — usually due to a leak, hot weather, and/or a malfunctioning radiator cooling fan.

- Pay attention to signs, including the temperature gauge's reading over halfway from cold to hot, steam or water vapor coming out from the hood, or a sweet smell coming from the engine. Proceed right away to a mechanic!
- Check engine coolant regularly. It should be above the "Minimal" or "Full" line when the engine is cool, and at or just below the "Max" line when the engine is hot.

**Manage engine overheating:** If you encounter any of the above signs:

- Allow engine to cool down for at least 30 minutes before opening the hood. DO NOT open the radiator cap while the engine is hot because the system is highly pressurized.
- Add water if coolant is low. Adding water without antifreeze can usually get you safely to a garage.

**Vehicle Breakdowns:** When a vehicle breaks down, drivers should:

- Turn on the emergency flashers to show the vehicle is disabled.
- If possible, get the vehicle as far off the road, away from traffic, as safely and quickly as possible.
- Give other drivers time to change lanes by leaving the emergency flashers on and if available, by placing emergency flares or reflectors 200 feet in front of and behind the vehicle.
- Once stopped, use a cell phone or other device to notify authorities that the vehicle has broken down.
  - » If a cell phone or device is unavailable, raise the hood of the vehicle and tie a white cloth (red in a snowstorm) to the driver's door handle or the vehicle's antenna, to alert drivers that help is needed.
  - » If possible, stay with the vehicle until help arrives. If the vehicle is in a hazardous location, get all passengers out of the vehicle and well away from traffic.

Sources: Bridgestone Tires, "Roadside Survival: low-tech solutions to automobile breakdowns" by Walt Brinker [roadsidesurvival.com](http://roadsidesurvival.com), AAA, and In Control Family Foundation

## Correct air pressure

Correct air pressure in tires helps prevent blowouts. Check spare tire PSI, also, as it is usually low.



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# Final tips for parents...

1. The longer a teen drives prior to obtaining their license, the less risk they have of crashing.
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. Johnathon Ehsani and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for these tips and their ongoing research to eliminate teen crashes.



















# START LIFE WITH A HEAD START.

Leadership isn't an idea—it's an action. It's a "drive into the flood zone" or "fly to the wildfire" kind of action. And you can do it in a stable role that only requires one weekend of training a month. Speak with your local Army National Guard recruiter and secure a future that excites you.

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