the PARENT’S supervised driving guide

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

A PROGRAM OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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A message from Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

Dear parent or guardian,

Learning to drive marks an important milestone in a young person’s life, one that will undoubtedly raise questions for you and your teen. The Parent’s Supervised Driving Guide is your handbook to coaching your teen on driving safely and responsibly.

It may not be immediately evident, but your driving habits have unconsciously influenced your teen’s attitudes during his or her young life. Your teen watches what you do and looks to you for guidance. If you are worried that you aren’t prepared to help teach your child how to drive, The Parent’s Supervised Driving Guide provides you with valuable information and tips so the time you spend together will be instructive and beneficial.

Remember that the law requires that either you or another responsible licensed adult age 21 or older accompany and supervise your teen during on-the-road practice sessions. Sit in the front seat so you have a clear view of your teen and the vehicle’s controls. To advance to the Level 2 Intermediate License, your teen must complete a minimum of 50 hours of practice driving time, including 10 hours at night. This may seem overwhelming at first, but with the assistance of this guide and the included driving log to track hours, your confidence as a driving mentor will grow.

Graduated Driver Licensing is a process, and you have the authority to restrict or cancel your teen’s license at any time if you believe he or she isn’t ready for the challenges of the road. Don’t forget to always buckle up and make sure your teen understands that driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or being distracted by a cell phone isn’t only illegal, it can be deadly.

The goal of Graduated Driver Licensing is to ensure your teen graduates into a lifetime of safe and responsible driving. As a parent or guardian, this is another opportunity to teach your teen important skills they will use throughout life. Make the most of the time you have together.

With best wishes,

Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State
The Big Day has arrived.

A driver’s license is one of life’s biggest milestones. State Farm® is here to help with teen driver programs and additional savings for safe driving. Talk to an agent or get a quote at statefarm.com®.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
Sponsor Message

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

As the nation’s leading auto insurer¹, State Farm® wants to help make this milestone a safe and positive one. Car accidents are the #1 cause of death among teens², and the first few months of unsupervised driving are the most dangerous. It’s why we’re involved with The Parent’s Supervised Driving Program, and why we’ve made significant, long-term investments in research and programs to help teens adjust to their newfound freedom.

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

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

¹  https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen drivers/
²  https://www.statefarm.com/about us/company overview/company profile/fast facts
SAFETY JUST COMES NATURALLY.

Toyota Safety Sense™ is now standard on many new Toyotas.

Now that active safety features like a Pre-Collision System (PCS), Lane Departure Alert (LDA) and others come standard on many new Toyotas — including the all-new Camry — you get extra peace of mind at no extra charge. Toyota Safety Sense™ (TSS). Designed for safety.

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Sponsor message

At Toyota, we have a vision of saving lives and amplifying the message of safe driving to teens, parents and educators. That is why we have partnered with The Parent’s Supervised Driving Program to promote safe driving for your teen and family. At the completion of this learning guide, we hope you and your teen will have a much greater understanding of what it takes to be safe when you get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.

We all know that driving poses certain risks. For teenagers, however, statistics reveal that the risk of being in a crash is greatest within the first 24 months of driving – higher than any other point in their lives.

As parents, you are the most important influence on your teen driver. By following the information in this guide, you will help teach them about the vehicles we drive, the roads we use, and the serious responsibility of being a driver.

And, while Toyota continues to design and manufacture leading-edge technology to help keep our customers safe, we fully understand that the best safety device in any car is the hands of the driver. That’s you and your teen. So be the driver you want your teen to be, and show them that it’s up to each of us to drive safely.

Enjoy the experience with your teen as you coach them through this guide. And together, Let’s Go Places.
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®.

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Welcome parents of teen drivers!

The Parent’s Supervised Driving Program is a resource for parents to use 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 two 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 driving time. RoadReady tracks your teen’s driving hours.

3. Present your log to your teen’s Segment 2 Driver Education instructor and a Driver Testing Examiner. Refer to page 16 for more details.

Stay Connected with Us!

Follow The Parent’s Supervised Driving Program – for expert driving articles, program launch events and additional safety resources.
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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 complete the minimum 50 hours of required driving time and to become a safe and responsible driver.

Some thoughts as you begin this exciting experience together:

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

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

Be a driving role model: It’s not enough to say, “Do as I say.” Children copy their parents'/guardians’ behavior, so your driving should set a good example for your teen to imitate. 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
- **Teaching your teen how to drive takes patience and your full attention.** If either of you are tired, angry, distracted or not feeling well, it’s best to postpone the driving lesson. Practice when you are both alert and ready to pay attention to each other.
- **Seat belts** should always be worn properly by everyone in the vehicle.
- **Before each session,** discuss the goals of the day’s lesson.
- **Before each new lesson,** review what was learned during the previous lesson.
- **Keep instructions simple and concise.** Say where to go and what action to take. For example: “Drive to the corner and turn right.”
- **The feedback** you give should be calm, precise, and immediate. Be patient and alert at all times. Remember to give positive feedback when your teen succeeds!
- **When your teen makes a mistake,** which will happen often, don’t 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 discrepancies.
- **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 not train in larger vehicles that lack stability control.
Vehicle control for supervisors

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

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

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

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

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

- **Emergency stopping:** If the vehicle’s parking brake is located between the seats, it can be used to stop the car in an emergency situation. This maneuver, however, can be dangerous, even at low speeds, and should only be used as a last resort.

Driving has changed

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

**Anti-lock Brake System (ABS):** Most newer cars offer ABS as standard equipment. ABS is a dramatic safety improvement that works by letting the tires rotate, rather than lock up, when the brake is engaged. This allows drivers to turn the car in an emergency stop. ABS should be used with firm, continuous pressure. The brake pedal may pulsate when applied firmly; which often concerns drivers - 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.

**Air bags:** Air bags are designed to work with seat belts, which must be worn for the air bags to be effective. The safety belt secures the driver safely in the seat behind the steering wheel. If the air bag inflates, the driver is held in the correct position so that optimal crash protection is provided. Since air bags deploy out of the steering 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 or 8 and 4 o'clock. This gives you better vehicle control and also lessens the risk of injury if the airbag was to deploy.

Commentary driving

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

Hands holding the wheel at 9 and 3 or 8 and 4 o'clock aren't as likely to be hit by the air bag.
Teens’ biggest dangers – part one

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

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Mile for mile, teens ages 16-19 are involved in 3 times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers. And 1 in 3 teens who text say they have done so while driving.
- According to NHTSA, in 2017, 3,166 people were killed in distraction-related crashes nationwide, with teens having the highest rate of distracted driving crashes involving a fatality. In 2016, an estimated 434,000 people were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.
- 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 percent of teens aged 12 to 17 say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put themselves and others in danger.

- **Talk to your teen:** In Michigan, teens with a Level 1 or Level 2 Graduated Driver License are prohibited from using a mobile phone while driving (Kelsey’s Law), and all drivers are prohibited from texting while driving. Discuss the risks and responsibilities of driving and the danger of dividing their attention between their phone 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 in addition to the limits set by the Graduated Driver Licensing Program (GDL), and make sure both sets of rules are clear from the start.

- **Sign a pledge:** Have your teen take action by agreeing to a family contract about wearing safety belts, not speeding, not driving after drinking, and not using a cell phone behind the wheel. Agree on penalties for violating the pledge, such as paying for tickets or loss of driving privileges. A sample contract is located on pages 21–22 of this guide.

- **Other dangerous distractions:** In addition to cell phone use, distracted driving can include eating, grooming, drinking, adjusting the radio, shuffling/streaming music, 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.

**Inexperience**

Just as it takes years to perfect any skill — athletic, artistic, or otherwise — it also takes years to be a truly good driver. Until teens are much more experienced, they run a greater risk of crashing, being hurt or killed. A driver’s license makes them a driver. Experience makes them good drivers.
Teens’ biggest dangers – part two

Newly licensed teens crash much more often than older, more experienced drivers. In addition to distracted driving, other teen passengers, and inexperience here are other circumstances that are the common trouble areas for young drivers:

Seat belts
The unfortunate reality is that teens buckle up less than adults. A 2008 study showed that seatbelt use amongst teens is the lowest of any age group, just 76 percent compared to a national average of 85 percent. In fact, the majority (58 percent) of young people 16 to 20 years old who were involved in fatal crashes were unbuckled. 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.

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

Night driving
For teens, the most severe crashes occur at night and on weekends. Night driving is challenging for all drivers, but novice drivers don’t 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.

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 2016, 21 percent of the young male drivers involved in fatal crashes had alcohol in their system (Blood Alcohol Concentrations (BAC) of .01 g/dL or higher), compared with 15 percent of young female drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Drugged driving
Although more states are legalizing marijuana, it’s important to remember that it’s still illegal for anyone under age 21 to use it. And just because it may be legal, it doesn’t mean that it’s safe — especially when you are driving. Any drug, including prescription drugs, illegal drugs and drugs purchased over the counter, can have a detrimental effect on your ability to drive safely. The laws for operating under the influence of alcohol also apply to drugs, including marijuana. Smoking or ingesting marijuana will slow your reflexes and judgment, making it difficult to react quickly and appropriately to challenges on the road. It also can affect you physically. For example, marijuana limits night vision, making it more difficult to see when driving after dark. And it can change your perception of time. It is best and safest to never mix alcohol or drugs, including marijuana, with driving.
The ins and outs of driver’s ed ...

- How to find a certified driver education program
- What to expect from Segment 1
- What to expect from Segment 2

Getting a license ... Michigan’s Graduated Licensing Program

- Required documents to take to the Secretary of State
- Eligibility requirements
- Restrictions and violation consequences
- Probationary period

Parents & Guardians

- Knowing your role
- Coaching your teen’s driving
- Setting rules and limits
- Modeling good driving behavior

Plus ...

- Teen Driving Risk Awareness
- Publications
- Forms
- Resources
- FAQs

Jocelyn Benson
Secretary of State
Before you start the engine

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

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

☐ **Skill one – look for hazards**

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.

☐ **Skill two – practice basic skills**

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

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

☐ **Skill three – proper seating position**

Your teen should: Sit with their back firmly against the seat, with 10-12 inches between the steering wheel and their chest, keep their head at the center of the head restraint and their shoulders no higher than the top of the steering wheel, adjust the seat so that their heel touches the floor and can pivot quickly between the brake and accelerator.

☐ **Skill four – teach correct 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 rest their head on the closed left-side window and set the left mirror to barely show the rear edge of the vehicle. When they sit up straight, the car should no longer be visible in the mirror.
- **Right-side mirror:** Have your teen lean to the right over the car’s center console, and set the right mirror so they can barely see the right side of the car.

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.

☐ **Skill five – vehicle technology**

It’s important for you and your teen to understand how advanced driver assistance features work, such as automatic emergency braking, blind spot monitoring, and forward collision warning alerts. Review your car’s manual, ask your vehicle dealership or visit mycardoeswhat.org.

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Proper mirror setting

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!

In order to adequately detect other traffic, adjust tilt to have the horizon appear in the center of the mirror, and adjust the viewing angle so that you can barely see the rear edge of the vehicle.

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

Goal achieved

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady
LESSON TWO: MOVING, STEERING, AND STOPPING

Recommended minimum instructional time: 1 hour

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.

☐ Skill one – moving and stopping

Michigan law requires that all front-seat passengers be buckled up, and passengers younger than age 16 must be buckled up in all seating positions (front or back seat).

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 as 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.

☐ Skill two – steering

Hand-To-Hand Steering Method: Your teen may have been introduced to other methods of steering such as; one-hand steering, hand-over-hand steering or evasive action steering, to name a few. However the hand-to-hand steering technique is the preferred method to use in most driving situations.

☐ Skill three – 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.

With hand-to-hand steering your hands don’t cross each other.
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.

**Skill 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.

**Skill two – driver’s side curb (or line)**
- Choose a pavement curb (or line) and tell your teen that the goal is to pull up and stop, with the driver’s side of the vehicle 6 to 12 inches from the curb or line. 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 isn’t the right distance, have them do it again, checking the reference points.

**Skill three – passenger’s side curb (or line)**
- Choose another curb (or line) parallel on the passenger’s side of the vehicle, 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.

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

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**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.

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**Goal achieved**

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady
Back up

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

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

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

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

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

- **Skill four – aligning rear bumper to a curb**
  - Choose a curb (or line) for a reference point.
  - Have your teen back up toward the reference point, 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.

---

**Recommended minimum instructional time:** 1 hour

---

**Goal achieved**

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady
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.

Before moving out onto the road, make sure that your teen has reviewed the What Every Driver Must Know publication and other information received during driver education and is familiar with street signs, signals, pavement markings, and yield and speed laws.

Skill review

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

Coach your teen to use “commentary driving” (see sidebar on page 2) throughout this lesson, if possible.

☐ Skill one – 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 ➊: 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 ➋: 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 there is no oncoming traffic). It should be avoided on a hill or a curve.

Right position ➌: 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 and when approaching a hill or curve.

☐ Skill two – intersections

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

• Search for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, signs, and traffic signals.
• Check the rearview mirror for any potential hazards behind the car.
• If it’s an intersection with traffic signals, identify who has the green light.
• If turning, put on the turn signal four seconds before making the turn.
• If a stop is required, stop behind the white stop line.
• Select the best lane for the intended direction of travel.
• Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles.
• Look carefully for oncoming motorcyclists, especially if you are turning left at an intersection. A motorcycle’s small profile makes it difficult to spot and accurately judge its speed.

Emergency vehicles

Make sure your teen understands what to do if they encounter an emergency vehicle. First, turn down the radio to listen for the direction of the emergency vehicle. Stay calm and pull over to the nearest curb clear of intersections, and wait for the emergency vehicle to pass.

Goal achieved

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady
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.

**Skill 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 doesn’t 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. Check for bicyclists coming from behind on the shoulder of the road or in a bicycle lane.

**Skill 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:

- Look carefully for oncoming motorcyclists, especially if you are turning left at an intersection. A motorcycle’s small profile makes it difficult to spot and accurately judge its speed.
- Position the vehicle close to the yellow line in the middle of the road.
- If there is a stop sign or red light, stop with wheels pointed straight ahead before the stop line, crosswalk or intersection.
- Search the intersection in all directions for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, 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.
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. Move onto a road with light traffic when your teen is ready.

- **Skill one – SEE system**
  Teach your teen the SEE system, a simple system to help drivers recognize, anticipate and avoid risks before they turn into problems. SEE stands for:
  - **Search** for potential risks like oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, obstacles, or intersections, and ways to avoid or reduce those risks.
  - **Evaluate** alternative paths and speeds for adjustments that would minimize or eliminate risks.
  - **Execute** the best speed, lane position and communication to reduce risk.

  Have your teen use commentary driving as they practice the SEE system. As they drive, ask them to verbally describe their thoughts and actions in order to search for potential risks, evaluate the problems these risks could cause and what they would do to minimize the risks (choose alternative path or change speed), then execute the maneuver.

- **Skill 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 able to see the rear tires of the car in front of you. Any closer is too close.

- **Skill three – three-second rule**
  Teach your teen the three-second rule for the appropriate following distance when driving behind other vehicles. The three-second rule is an important safety measure designed to give drivers enough time to safely steer or brake to avoid problems that occur in front of them on the road.
  - Start counting when the rear bumper of the vehicle in front of you passes an object.
  - Count “one thousand ONE, one thousand TWO, one thousand THREE.”
  - Your front bumper should not pass that same object before you’ve reached “three.”

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

---

Don’t tailgate
Rear-end collisions are the most common type of car crashes. 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.

---

**Goal achieved**

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady
Segment 1 Driver Education

Teens must be at least age 14 years and 8 months to begin Segment 1 Driver Education. The course is held over a minimum of 3 weeks, includes at least 24 hours in the classroom, 6 hours of driving, 4 hours of observation driving time, and a written examination.

Applying for a Level 1 Learner’s License

Teens must successfully complete Segment 1 Driver Education, be at least age 14 years and 9 months, and pass a vision and health screening to be issued a Level 1 Learner’s License. A parent or legal guardian must accompany their teen to the secretary of state office and sign the license application. Documents required include: proof of Social Security number, legal presence, identity, and Michigan residency, and a Michigan Driver Education Segment 1 Certificate of Completion. See Michigan.gov/TeenDriver for a list of eligible documents.

Level 1 Learner’s License restrictions

Teens with a Level 1 Learner’s License must be supervised at all times by a licensed parent, legal guardian, or designated licensed driver aged 21 or older. If your teen is driving with someone other than you, he or she should carry a signed letter of authorization from you. Although seatbelts should be worn by everyone, they are required for everyone in the front seat, and everyone under age 16 in the vehicle. Drivers with a Level 1 Learner’s License are prohibited from using hand-held cellphones and from texting.

Parent’s required supervised driving time

Inexperience is the main reason for crashes among newly licensed drivers. Driver education introduces teens to the mechanics of driving, but it is just the beginning of the learning process. From there, teens need to continue to practice driving with their parents while they gain experience in all types of situations and conditions in order to reduce their risk of crashing. After teens are issued a Level 1 Learner’s License, they are required to log a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving time with their parents, including 10 hours at night.

Segment 2 Driver Education

Segment 2 Driver Education includes a minimum of 6 hours of classroom instruction and a written exam. Teens must hold a Level 1 Learner’s License a minimum of 3 continuous months to enroll and must have completed 30 of the 50 hours of required supervised driving time with their parents (including 2 of the 10 hours at night). A driving log must be presented to the driver education instructor before taking the course.

Driving Skills Test

The Driving Skills Test includes a basic control skills test and an on road driving test. It is administered by independent testing organizations approved by the Secretary of State. Test fees charged by organizations vary; ask about fees before scheduling a test. To be eligible for the test, teens must hold a Level 1 Learner’s License a minimum of 6 months, successfully complete Segment 2 Driver Education, and complete the minimum 50 hours of supervised driving time on a Level 1 Learner’s License, including a minimum of 10 hours at night. A driving log and a Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Certificate of Completion must be presented to the Driver Testing Examiner before taking the test.

Applying for a Level 2 Intermediate License

To be issued a Level 2 Intermediate License, teens must be age 16 or older, pass a Driving Skills Test, and be crash and violation-free for 90 days prior to applying for the license. A parent or legal guardian must accompany their teen to the secretary of state office and sign the license application. Documents required include: proof of Social Security number, legal presence, identity, and Michigan residency, a Level 1 Learner’s License, Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Certificate of Completion, and a Driving Skills Test Certificate. See Michigan.gov/TeenDriver for a list of eligible documents.
Level 2 Intermediate License restrictions

- No driving between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. except when:
  - driving to or from or in the course of employment;
  - driving to or from an authorized activity; or
  - accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.
- No driving at any time with more than 1 passenger in the vehicle who is younger than 21 years of age except:
  - when the additional passengers are immediate family members;
  - when driving to or from, or in the course of employment;
  - while going to or from an authorized activity; or
  - when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.
- No hand-held cellphones
- No texting
- Seatbelts required for everyone in front seat, and everyone under age 16 in vehicle

All first-time drivers are placed on probation for at least three years. Teen drivers who are convicted of a traffic violation, involved in a traffic crash, or violate license restrictions may be required to appear for a driver reexamination, which may result in further license restrictions, suspension or both. If the driver fails to appear, the department may conduct the reexamination based solely on the driving record. Should either occur, advancement to the next GDL level will be delayed.

Additional family rules to consider

- No passengers
- No nighttime driving
- No electronic communication or entertainment devices (including no Bluetooth)
- Seatbelts required by all in the vehicle regardless of age

Parent – teen safe driving contract

Crash rates peak during the first 6 months that teens drive without supervision, making this an essential time for parents to provide guidance, oversight, and set limits. Parents who do this have teens that are less likely to receive traffic tickets or be involved in traffic crashes. Inexperience and immaturity combine to make young drivers especially at risk at night, after drinking alcohol, with passengers, when unbelted, and when using cellphones. Parents are strongly encouraged to complete a driving contract with their teen. For a sample, see the Parent – teen safe driving contract on pages 21-22.

Level 3 License

Teens with a Level 3 License have no state-imposed license restrictions. Parents may request that their teen remain at Level 2 and not automatically advance to Level 3. To advance to a Level 3 License, teens must be age 17 or older, have held a Level 2 Intermediate License for a minimum of 6 months, and be 12 months crash and violation free.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/TeenDriver.
This guy’s about to slam on his brakes.

WE’RE READY.

Redefining what it means to feel safe.

Corolla

Toyota Safety Sense™ Standard

Prototype shown with options. Production model may vary. Drivers are responsible for their own safe driving. Always pay attention to your surroundings and drive safely. Depending on the conditions of roads, weather and the vehicle, the system(s) may not work as intended. See Owner’s Manual for additional limitations and details. 1. The TSS Pre-Collision System is designed to help avoid or reduce the crash speed and damage in certain frontal collisions only. It is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving. System effectiveness is dependent on road, weather and vehicle conditions. See Owner’s Manual for additional limitations and details. 2. The Pedestrian Detection system is designed to detect a pedestrian ahead of the vehicle, determine if impact is imminent and help reduce impact speed. It is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving. System effectiveness depends on many factors, such as speed, size and position of pedestrians, and weather, light and road conditions. See Owner’s Manual for additional limitations and details. 3. Automatic High Beams operate at speeds above 25 mph. Factors such as a dirty windshield, weather, lighting and terrain limit effectiveness, requiring the driver to manually operate the high beams. See Owner’s Manual for additional limitations and details. 4. Dynamic Radar Cruise Control is designed to assist the driver and is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving practices. System effectiveness is dependent on road, weather and traffic conditions. See Owner’s Manual for additional limitations and details. 5. Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist is designed to read lane markers under certain conditions. It provides a visual and audible alert, and slight steering force when lane departure is detected. It is not a collision-avoidance system or a substitute for safe and attentive driving. Effectiveness is dependent on road, weather and vehicle conditions. See Owner’s Manual for additional limitations and details. ©2017 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.
Michigan supervised driving log

Parents or guardians are responsible for making certain that their teen has completed no less than 50 hours of supervised driving, with 10 of those hours completed at night. The 50 hours may be completed with a licensed parent or legal guardian, any licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian, or a teen certified driver education provider. The goal is for your teen to be as prepared as possible for their Level 2 Intermediate License.

A supervised driving log must be completed and presented to your teen’s Segment 2 Driver Education instructor to show that at least 30 hours (including 2 hours of nighttime driving) were completed before beginning the course.

The log will need to be shown again to a Driver Testing Examiner showing that at least 50 hours (including 10 hours of nighttime driving) were completed before the teen is allowed to take the Driving Skills Test.

The log that follows and the free mobile app, RoadReady®, are the preferred formats. Other driving log formats will be accepted. If using the mobile app, RoadReady®, the information may be printed from the app or shown on the mobile device.
**Name of New Driver:** __________________________________________

**Lessons/Recommended Practice Hours**

1. Before you start the engine (1)
2. Moving, steering and stopping (1)
3. How close are you? (1)
4. Backing up (1)
5. Driving on a quiet street (5)
6. Looking ahead (5)
7. Turning around (1)
8. Parking (3)
9. Multi-lane roads (10)
10. City driving (10)
11. Freeway driving (10)
12. Roundabouts (2)
13. Winter Driving (as much as possible)

**Nighttime Hours:** Driving time that is 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lesson No.</th>
<th>Day Hours</th>
<th>Night Hours</th>
<th>Weather Conditions</th>
<th>Supervisor's Initials</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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**Subtotal 1 Day/Night Hours**

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Rev. 08/2019
LOG YOUR DRIVES ON THE FORM BELOW
OR DOWNLOAD THE FREE MOBILE APP

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<th>Date</th>
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Subtotal 1 & 2 Daytime Hours: _______
Subtotal 1 & 2 Nighttime Hours: _______
According to Section 39 [MCL 256.659] of the Driver Education Provider and Instructor Act, 384 of 2006, in order for a student to be offered a Segment 2 course, they must have successfully completed a Segment 1 curriculum driver education course, held a valid level 1 Graduated Driver License for not less than 3 continuous months, and acquired 30 or more hours driving experience on a level 1 Graduated Driver License that includes not less than 2 hours of night driving with a licensed parent or legal guardian, or with the permission of a parent or legal guardian, with any licensed driver who is 21 years of age or older.

The signature of the parent or legal guardian below signifies that the driver named above has completed the above requirements.

### Supervised Driving Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lesson No.</th>
<th>Day Hours</th>
<th>Night Hours</th>
<th>Weather Conditions</th>
<th>Supervisor’s Initials</th>
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Subtotal 3 Day/Night Hours

Additional pages may be attached.

---

**Teen Driver’s Name**

**Level 1 Learner’s License Number**

### Segment 2 Driver Education

According to Section 39 [MCL 256.659] of the Driver Education Provider and Instructor Act, 384 of 2006, in order for a student to be offered a Segment 2 course, they must have successfully completed a Segment 1 curriculum driver education course, held a valid level 1 Graduated Driver License for not less than 3 continuous months, and acquired 30 or more hours driving experience on a level 1 Graduated Driver License that includes not less than 2 hours of night driving with a licensed parent or legal guardian, or with the permission of a parent or legal guardian, with any licensed driver who is 21 years of age or older.

The signature of the parent or legal guardian below signifies that the driver named above has completed the above requirements.

### Daytime Hours Completed (30 Minimum): _______  Nighttime Hours Completed (2 minimum): _______

**Parent or Legal Guardian’s Signature**

**Date**

### Driving Skills Test

According to the Michigan Vehicle Code, PA 300 of 1949, as amended, a person may be issued a Level 2 graduated licensing status if the person presents a certification by the parent or guardian that the person, accompanied by his or her licensed parent or legal guardian or, with the permission of the parent or legal guardian, any licensed driver 21 years of age or older, has accumulated a total of not less than 50 hours of behind-the-wheel experience including not less than 10 nighttime hours.

The signature of the parent or legal guardian below signifies that the driver named above has completed the above requirements.

### Grand Total Daytime Hours (40 Minimum): _______  Grand Total Night Hours (10 minimum): _______

**Parent or Legal Guardian’s Signature**

**Date**

Rev. 08/2019
PUT YOUR PHONE
IN PARK

Level 1 and Level 2 license holders are prohibited from using a cell phone while driving.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/T...
We, ________________, and ________________, agree to the following conditions:

**TEEN DRIVER’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES</th>
<th>(i.e. loss of driving privileges for ____ weeks/monts)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will obey all traffic laws such as:</td>
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<tr>
<td>I will wear a safety belt at all times, and I will require front seat passengers and all other passengers under age 16 to wear a safety belt at all times.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will not consume alcohol or drugs or operate any vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>At GDL Level 2, I will not operate a vehicle between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless I am going to or from work, an authorized activity (such as a school sanctioned event), or am accompanied by one of my parents, a guardian or an adult 21 years or older who has been approved by my parents.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>At GDL Level 2, I will allow no more than one nonfamily member in the vehicle with me except for occasions when it is legal (such as a school sanctioned event or traveling to or from work) and if my parents have given their approval.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I will not get into the vehicle of a driver who has been drinking or using drugs. I will seek alternate transportation or I will call my parents for advice and/or transportation at any hour from any place.</td>
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</table>

**Obey parent’s rules such as:**

(Initial all that apply)

| I will require that all passengers wear a seat belt regardless of their age. | initials |
| I will state my destination, with whom, time of return, expected weather and my route prior to using any vehicle. I will notify my parents if my plans have changed or I think that I will be more than ____ minutes late. | initials |
| I will not operate a vehicle while tired, overly emotional, eating, drinking, if passenger horseplay or other distracting activities are taking place. | initials |
| I will not operate a vehicle during the following weather conditions (circle all that apply): | |
| Rain: Light, Moderate, Heavy Snowfall: Light, Moderate, Heavy | initials |
| Fog | initials |
| Other | initials |
| I will only operate a vehicle on the following roads (circle all that apply): | |
| Neighborhood, Local, Highway, Freeway, Other:______________ | initials |
| I will not let anyone else drive or use the vehicle entrusted to me. | initials |
| Other: | initials |
| Other: | initials |
PARENT – TEEN SAFE DRIVING CONTRACT

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES
(initial all that apply)

I will listen in a respectful manner to explanations or concerns expressed by my teen driver regarding the operation of a vehicle or the terms of the contract. ___ initials

I will provide respectful feedback when accompanying my teen driver in a motor vehicle. ___ initials

I will serve as a good role model when operating a vehicle and instill good driving skills and habits when coaching my teen driver. ___ initials

In the event of operator impairment as a result of alcohol and/or drugs, I (We) agree to come and get you at any hour from any place, with no questions asked and no argument at that time, or I (we) will arrange transportation to bring you home safely. I (We) expect that a discussion of such an incident would follow at a later time. ___ initials

Likewise, I (we) as your parent or guardian, agree to seek safe, sober transportation if I (we) are unable to drive safely. I (We) will not drive if I (we) have been drinking, nor will I (we) ride with a relative or friend who has been drinking. ___ initials

COSTS AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE

____________ will be responsible for the following: (indicate dollar amount or percentage of cost)

Name of Teen Driver

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<td>Cost of Vehicle</td>
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<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Registration</td>
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Check all that apply:

Check oil and other fluids regularly
Report unusual performance
Inspect tires and check air pressure
Keep interior and exterior clean
Clear or clean all windows
Refuel when tank is ¼ full
Perform normal maintenance
Other

Additional conditions or responsibilities as agreed to by teen and parents/guardians:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

We agree to the terms of this contract, and agree to review it for possible revisions on __________________. Date

__________________________  ________________________
Signature of Parent or Guardian                                      Signature of Parent or Guardian

__________________________  ________________________
Signature of Teen Driver                                             Date

March 28, 2013
PARENTS OF TEENS
GET NOTIFIED IF YOUR TEEN GETS PULLED OVER

JOIN STOPPED
SHERIFFS TELLING OUR PARENTS AND PROMOTING EDUCATED DRIVERS

REGISTER TODAY AT MISHERIFF.ORG

Brought to you by the Michigan Sheriffs’ Association
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.

☐ Skill 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.

☐ Skill 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 activate the right turn 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.

☐ Skill 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 until the car is perpendicular, facing the curb.
   • Continue checking for traffic in both directions.
   • Put the car in reverse and back up, turning sharply in the other direction into the original lane, facing the opposite direction.
   • Shift into drive and pull forward into the correct lane, driving straight ahead.

☐ Skill four – U-turns
First explain that U-turns can be very dangerous, and should only be done where they are legal.
   • To begin the U-turn pull to the far right and stop.
   • Be sure there is enough room to make the turn without hitting the curb or any parked cars.
   • Signal to indicate the direction of the turn, checking carefully for oncoming traffic.
   • Move forward, turning the wheel sharply to turn around.
   • Finish the U-turn in the opposite direction and accelerate to an appropriate speed.

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

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

Goal achieved

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

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

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 “Lesson Three: how close are you?” and “Lesson Four: backing up.”

Skill one – angle parking
Less turning 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.

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

Skill three – exiting a parking space
Turn when your outside mirror reaches the edge of the space. Stay alert for cars backing out to leave their space.

• Turn around to look for oncoming traffic.
• For angled spaces, back up straight until the driver’s seat is even with the bumper of the next vehicle on the turning side. For perpendicular spaces, back up straight until the windshield is aligned with the bumper of the next vehicle.
• Quickly turn the wheel in the direction that the rear of the car needs to go.
• Glance forward to make sure the front bumper is clear of the car on the other side.
• When the front bumper clears the other vehicle, stop, shift into drive, and pull forward to complete the exit.
• It is often safer to pull through a parking space so that you exit moving forward instead of backing out.
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.

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

**Skill two – exiting a parallel parking space**

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

**Skill three – parallel 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 often. Coach them to pull out of the space and try again, adjusting their turning angle as needed.

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**Goal achieved**

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. Choose a time with limited traffic, such as a weekend morning.

Lesson 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 Lessons 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 Lesson 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.

Following distance (refer to Lesson Six): Review the three-second rule with your teen, emphasizing that increasing following distance is the single best way to reduce crash risk. This gives the driver visibility, time, and space to avoid crashes.

☐ Skill 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 15–20 times:

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

When changing lanes, always recheck traffic with a glance over the shoulder at the blind spot.
Goal: Teach your teen to drive safely and with confidence on busier, more complex, multi-lane roads.

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

☐ Skill 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 corresponding lane of the new road. Look for signs and signals that indicate whether “right on red” is allowed. Practice right turns 10–12 times before moving on to left turns.

☐ Skill 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

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

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

- Make sure the vehicle is in the correct lane to make a left turn.
- Signal the turn and begin slowing down at least 100 feet from the intersection.
- Move carefully into the intersection. Don’t turn the wheel until you’re ready to make the turn.
- Yield to any vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians.
- Left turns at intersections are one of the highest-risk crash zones for vehicles-motorcycle crashes.
- 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.

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

☐ Skill three – safe passing procedures

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

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

Making left turns

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

Goal achieved

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 one – visibility, space and time**

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

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

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 Lesson 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.

☐ **Skill 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

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

☐ **Skill 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.

☐ **Skill 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
- Grooming or looking in the mirror

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

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

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**Goal achieved**

*Supervisor initials*

*Driver initials*

#RoadReady
Freeway driving – part one

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

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

□ **Skill one – observation**

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

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

**Entrance area:** This stretch allows the driver time to search the freeway and evaluate how much space they have to enter and what speed is needed.

**Acceleration area:** The driver brings the vehicle up to the speed of freeway traffic flow.

**Merge area:** The driver uses this space to merge into the traffic flow.

□ **Skill two – merging onto a freeway**

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

□ **Skill three – exiting a freeway**

- Identify the exit well ahead of time.
- Scan traffic for problems when approaching the exit, but don’t slow down on the freeway.
- Start to signal four to six seconds before reaching the ramp.
- Upon entering the ramp, tap the brakes and begin rapidly reducing speed.
- Slow down to the posted exit ramp speed limit before reaching the curve.
Freeway driving – part two

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

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

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

- **Skill two – lane changing**
  In the high-speed, complex freeway environment, lane-changing skills are very important. Have your teen spend several miles practicing the lane-changing and passing skills previously learned in “Skill nine: multi-lane roads,” until they are comfortable performing them at freeway speeds. Remind your teen to:
  - Watch for merging vehicles and move one lane left to make space for them when needed.
  - Change lanes one at a time.
  - Watch mirrors for tailgaters and move to another lane to let them pass.
  - If your teen is having trouble maintaining consistent lane position, encourage them to look further down the road.

- **Skill three – three-second rule**
  Review the three-second rule for following distance, learned in “Lesson Six: looking ahead.” Additionally, coach your teen to use a three-second rule for these freeway driving circumstances:
  - Merging onto a freeway
  - Changing lanes
  - Exiting a freeway

- **Skill four – challenging road conditions**
  Coach your teen to adjust travel speed and vehicle position based on weather and road conditions. Once your teen is comfortable with and proficient at freeway driving in good conditions, spend some practice time on freeways under more challenging conditions, such as rain. Coach them to always use appropriate caution, as conditions can change quickly.

  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.

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**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 driver’s behavior.

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**Goal achieved**

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady
Roundabouts

**Goal:** Teach your teen to maneuver safely in and out of roundabouts.

**Location:** Start with a single lane roundabout and move onto multi-lane roundabouts when appropriate.

Roundabouts are becoming more common in the United States because they provide safer and more efficient traffic flow than standard intersections. Statistics for roundabouts have found reductions in injury crashes of 72–80 percent and reductions in all crashes of 35–47 percent when compared to other types of intersections.

When driving a roundabout, the same general rules apply as for maneuvering through any other type of intersection.

☐ **Skill one – driving a roundabout**
- Slow down. Obey traffic signs and pavement markings.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Yield to traffic in all lanes on your left already in the roundabout.
- Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic.
- Keep your speed low within the roundabout.
- As you approach your exit, turn on your right turn signal.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists as you exit.

☐ **Skill two – yield to emergency vehicles**
- Always yield to emergency vehicles.
- If you haven’t entered the roundabout, pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- If you have entered the roundabout, safely get out at the nearest exit, then pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- Avoid stopping in the roundabout.

☐ **Skill three – two or more lane roundabouts**
- Choose the proper lane before entering: As you get closer to the roundabout entrance, it is very important to observe the signs and arrows to determine which lane to use before entering a roundabout.
- Black and white signs on the side of the road and white arrows on the road will show the correct lane to use.
- In general, if you want to make a left turn, you should be in the left lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as left turn lanes.
- If you want to make a right turn, you should be in the right lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as right turn lanes.
- If you want to go straight, observe the signs and arrows to see which lane is correct.
Winter driving

**Goal:** Teach your teen to drive safely in adverse weather conditions.

**Location:** Begin in a large, level, mostly empty area. Move to quiet neighborhood streets, busier multi-lane roads, urban areas and freeways when you feel your teen is ready.

Before driving in winter:
- Prior to the beginning of winter, visit your mechanic for a tune-up and other routine maintenance.
- Check the weather, traffic and road conditions. Avoid rushing and allow plenty of time to reach your destination safely.
- Consult your owner’s manual to see if your vehicle has an antilock brake system. Learn the proper braking procedure for your vehicle.
- Make sure your vehicle is completely clear of snow and ice before driving. Driving can cause snow and ice to slide and block your view or fly off and strike other vehicles. In Michigan, you can be ticketed if snow and ice fly off your car and obstruct the view of other vehicles.
- Be sure to check the tread on your tires. Replace them if the tread is too low.

**Skill one – driving in snow**
- When starting to drive in snow, keep the wheels straight. Accelerate gently to avoid spinning the wheels.
- Decrease your speed to make up for a loss of traction. Accelerate and decelerate gently. Be extra careful when braking.
- Stopping distances can be 10 times greater on ice and snow. Begin the slowing-down process long before a stop. Brake only when traveling in a straight line.
- Look ahead for potentially dangerous spots, such as shaded areas and bridge surfaces that may be icy even though the rest of the road is clear.

**Skill two - safety around snowplows**

Snowplows use distinctive flashing lights to warn you that snow removal operations are underway.

Don’t Crowd the Plow!
- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room to clear snow from the roads. Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck.
- Plows are wide and can cross the center line or shoulder.
- Don’t tailgate and avoid passing, especially on the right. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won’t see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash.
- 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.

In an emergency...

Keep an emergency kit easily accessible in your vehicle. Make sure to include winter clothes, jumper cables, ice scraper, mobile phone charger, shovel, tow rope, sand or kitty litter, flashlight and batteries, first-aid kit, emergency reflective triangles and flares, battery operated radio, nonperishable food (energy bars and water), small tool kit, duct tape, blanket and maps. Emergencies know no season. Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle year-round.

Goal achieved

Supervisor initials

Driver initials

#RoadReady
Sharing the road with trucks

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 percent 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 aren’t 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 you. 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 in the lane that is designated throughout the work zone.
• Follow posted speed limit: Speed limits in work zones are decreased for a reason. Always look for workers on or near the roadway and keep a safe distance between you and them.
• Take your cues from trucks: Work zones often pop up suddenly. If you aren’t paying attention to the signs, you could find yourself in a serious accident. Since trucks have a height advantage and can see ahead of traffic, their brake light activity can provide a good signal of a slow-down or work zone ahead. Truck drivers know the stopping limitations of their trucks and pay close attention to traffic.
• Merge gently: Aggressive drivers can be extremely dangerous while driving in work zones. Work zones require time and courtesy. For a smooth passage through work zones, allow others to merge in front of you. Be especially considerate to 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
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 bikes**: 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**: Michigan law requires a minimum 3-foot safe passing distance when passing a bicyclist. If this is impracticable, a safe distance and speed is required. Some local ordinances require a greater distance. You may pass a bicycle in a no-passing zone as long as it is safe to do so. This may require motorists to use another lane or wait for a safe opportunity to pass. Don’t return to your original lane until well clear of the cyclist or other vulnerable roadway user. Don’t 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 mirror and physically turn your body to make sure no bicyclists are coming.

Lowering speeds can save lives

![Speed Comparison]

- **20 MPH**: 18% likelihood of fatality or severe injury
- **30 MPH**: 50% likelihood of fatality or severe injury
- **40 MPH**: 77% likelihood of fatality or severe injury


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.
Sharing the road with motorcyclists

Motorcyclists are hard to see. Knowing where to expect them can help you become safer and more confident on the roads during warm-weather months when most motorcyclists take to the streets. When you watch for motorcyclists, see more than the motorcycle, see the person under the helmet. They may be your friend, neighbor or relative. Here are some tips to help you remain aware of motorcyclists and keep everyone safe:

1. **84% of motorcycle-vehicle crashes happen on streets, not highways.**
   A common misconception is that most crashes involving motorcyclists and vehicles occur on highways. Data shows that a large majority take place on city streets where a lot of vehicles are in motion.

2. **Most crashes with motorcyclists occur when vehicle drivers are turning left.**
   Intersections are one of the biggest dangers for motorcyclists. Their smaller size causes them to be overlooked by other drivers. Make sure to look twice before turning, especially to the left.

3. **Always assume motorcyclists are closer than they appear.**
   Their speed and distance are difficult for drivers to judge, especially at intersections. Keep a watchful eye at all times. Look twice at intersections before you turn or pull out.

4. **Double-check your blind spots.**
   It’s probably no surprise that motorcyclists can get lost in a vehicle’s blind spot. Be extra cautious when merging or changing lanes.

5. **Don’t rely just on your ears.**
   Many drivers count on hearing motorcycles to be alerted of their presence. You can’t always hear motorcyclists, especially when they are oncoming. So, practice remaining alert at all times.

6. **Keep your distance.**
   Many motorcyclists slow down by downshifting, which won’t activate the brake light. Allow yourself extra space when you’re following a motorcyclist, particularly on busy city streets.

7. **Know their signals.**
   Motorcyclists often use hand signals, similar to bicyclists, to let others know their intentions on the road. A right turn is signaled by a left arm raised, a left turn by the left arm straight out to the side and a stop by the left arm downward.

8. **Avoid distractions.**
   Keep all devices out of reach while driving so you won’t be tempted to look at them — even when you’re stopped at intersections. Other distractions that can take your attention away from the road? GPS devices, eating, drinking or reaching for an object all can take your eyes — and your mind — off the road.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/LookTwice
Speeding is the most common hazardous action for teen drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Visit [Michigan.gov/TeenDriver](http://Michigan.gov/TeenDriver) and search for "Technology Resources for Safe Driving"
Vehicle maintenance

Proper vehicle maintenance can help prevent the most common reasons for breakdowns: failed tires, running out of gas, engine overheating, and poor battery performance.

**Prevent tire-related breakdowns:** Taking good care of tires can prevent crashes and breakdowns.
- Have tires inspected, rotated, and balanced by professionals every six months or 6,000–8,000 miles.
- Check tire pressure monthly, and before long trips. Check when tires are cold. Use a tire pressure gauge and find the recommended psi on the driver’s side door jam or in the vehicle owner’s manual.

**When a tire fails:** The first thing to consider is safety. Find a safe location to stop. Look for a wide shoulder, rest stop, gas station, or parking lot. Activate hazard lights. Call roadside assistance or:
- Have a fully inflated spare tire in your car and the necessary tools.
- Practice changing a tire. Consult the vehicle owner’s manual. Don’t wait until you have a flat tire.

**Prevent running out of gas:** Fill the tank when the gauge reads one-quarter full. In winter, or in rural areas, keep the tank at least one-half full. Don’t wait until the fuel light comes on.

**Be prepared in case you run out of gas:**
- Keep an empty one-gallon container specifically designed for gasoline in your trunk in case you need to walk to a gas station. **Never** stow a container with gas in the car.

**Prevent battery problems:** Car batteries usually last 3 to 5 years. Keep a set of jumper cables in the car.
- At first sign of a problem, have the battery checked and replaced if needed.
- Warning signs of a failing battery: Illuminated battery light, slow engine crank, and dimming lights.
- Keep clamps to battery terminals tight so they cannot be moved by hand. Loose terminals and corrosion will cause problems starting your car.

**Be prepared for battery problems:** If the car doesn’t start, its battery may be dead, or the battery clamps are loose or dirty.
- Your jumper cables should be at least 20 feet long. Learn how to connect them properly.
- Stow a “jumper box.” Charge it after prolonged or frequent usage.
- Have a correctly sized combination wrench to tighten loose battery clamps.

**Prevent engine overheating:** Common causes include low coolant in the radiator — usually due to a leak; hot weather; or a malfunctioning radiator cooling fan.
- Pay attention to the warning signs, including the needle of the engine-temperature gauge moving up past the halfway mark, and steam or vapor coming out from under the hood. If any of these conditions are present, get to a mechanic as soon as possible. Continuing to drive on an overheating engine may cause serious damage.
- Check engine coolant regularly. It should be above the ‘Minimal’ or ‘Fill’ line when the engine is cool, and at or just below the ‘Max’ line when its hot. Stow a gallon of coolant or water for emergencies.

**Be prepared in case your engine overheats:** If your engine overheats:
- Get to a safe location as soon as possible and turn off the engine.
- Allow the engine to cool down for at least 30 minutes before checking the radiator. An overheated engine is dangerous because the system is highly pressurized with hot coolant that can severely burn you if you try to remove the radiator cap too soon.
- Before proceeding to a mechanic, turn on the heater to dissipate heat.
Practice in other conditions

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

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

- Glare from headlights makes it difficult to see. Looking toward the right side of the road and adjusting the rearview mirror can help to reduce glare.
- Headlights should be turned on before the sun goes down to make the car more visible.
- High beams should only be used when other drivers won’t see them, such as on roads with little traffic.
- To compensate for reduced visibility, drive more slowly and at a greater following distance.

Rural driving
When driving in rural or country areas, there are a number of situations that require special attention.

- Watch for driveways, farm equipment, railroad crossings that might not be marked, and bridges that are narrow or poorly surfaced. Some intersections may be hidden by trees, brush, or crops.
- Animals often are found wandering along the roadway. Be alert for deer at dawn and dusk, and especially in the fall and spring (although vehicle-deer crashes can occur at any time). Watch for deer crossing signs. Slow down if you see one deer; they frequently travel in groups so chances are there’d be others nearby.
- Extra care and slower speeds should be used when driving on gravel roads because of the reduced traction. 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.

Driving in the rain
When rain begins to fall lightly, water, dust, oil and leaves cause the roadway to become slippery. The road is most slippery within the first half-hour after it begins raining.

- Don’t drive through a flooded area — Six inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control and possibly stall.

Coach your teen to practice the following:

- Turn on the wipers as soon as the windshield becomes wet.
- Turn on the low-beam headlights.
- Drive 5 to 10 mph slower than normal and increase your following distance to 5 or 6 seconds.
- Be more cautious. Slow down on curves and when approaching intersections.
- Turn off cruise control.
- Turn the defroster on.

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

Fog
Use low-beam lights or fog lights if your vehicle has them. Don’t use high beams — they reflect off the fog causing reduced visibility. Slow down until your speed matches your ability to see, even if it means slowing to a crawl.
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 learned the basics of operating a vehicle safely, it is essential that they continue to drive in a variety of different conditions and road types, such as quiet neighborhood streets, multi-lane roads, and highways. Drive with them at different times of the day, in poor weather, and with varying levels of traffic. It’s much better that they experience these conditions with you, rather than alone or with other teens.

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

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

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

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

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

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