



# DRIVE TO SUCCEED

## TIPS FOR COACHING YOUR TEEN WITH A LEARNER'S PERMIT

*Drive to Succeed* is designed to supplement your teen's driver education curriculum. This guide offers valuable coaching tips for you to help make the learning process as easy and effective as possible. It also presents the key skills your teen should practice after getting a learner's permit in preparation for earning a driver's license.

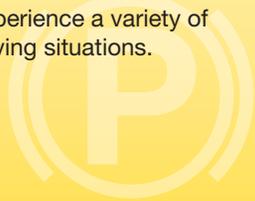


For more information, visit [DriveItHome.org](http://DriveItHome.org).



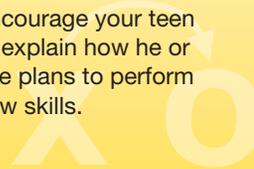
### PRACTICE HELPS MAKE PERFECT

- Practice driving with your teen at least 50 hours (10 at night, 5 in inclement weather) — more if required by your state.
- Hold first lessons in an empty parking lot and then move onto local roads.
- Experience a variety of driving situations.



### REVIEW THE GAME PLAN

- Ask your teen's driver education teacher what skills your teen should practice each week.
- Before each session, discuss with your teen the route and the skills that will be practiced.
- Encourage your teen to explain how he or she plans to perform new skills.



### READ THE SIGNS

- Make sure your teen's arms are relaxed, not overstressed.
- If your teen seems nervous, take a break and resume later.



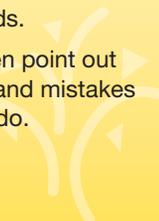
### MAINTAIN CONCENTRATION

- Make sure your teen isn't distracted.
- Turn off all music and keep cellphones out of sight.
- Provide simple, clear instructions well in advance of maneuvers.
- Occasionally ask your teen to comment on what he or she is seeing or thinking.



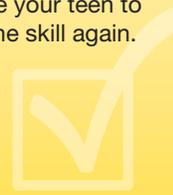
### CELEBRATE EACH SUCCESS

- Be generous with your praise.
- Encourage your teen to continue to build new skills.
- Evaluate each session together when it's fresh in your minds.
- Let your teen point out successes and mistakes before you do.



### LEARN FROM MISTAKES

- If a mistake is made, ask your teen to move the car safely off the road.
- Talk through how to correct it.
- Use a calm voice and be patient.
- Encourage your teen to practice the skill again.



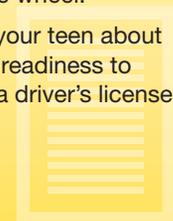
### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

- Your teen learns from you — especially when you're driving.
- Follow the same rules your teen is learning.
- Keep distractions to a minimum.
- Point out potential driving issues when your teen is a passenger.



### ASSESS THEIR READINESS

- Take note of your teen's ability to use good judgment, resist peer pressure, control emotions, follow state driving laws, and feel comfortable and confident behind the wheel.
- Talk with your teen about his or her readiness to apply for a driver's license.



# DRIVE TO SUCCEED

## SKILLS TO PRACTICE AFTER YOUR TEEN GETS A LEARNER'S PERMIT

### BASIC SKILLS IN AN EMPTY PARKING LOT

#### TWO ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Understand all controls, gauges and safety devices.
- Check and adjust seats, mirrors and safety belts (including passenger seat).
- Start, drive and stop smoothly.
- Make accurate turns using correct signals.
- Drive in reverse (straight and turns).

### LIGHT TRAFFIC IN DAYLIGHT (25 – 35 MPH)

#### FOUR ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Watch for trouble and plan next move.
- Keep speed consistent.
- Make complete stops.
- Safely follow behind vehicles.
- Check mirrors and blind spots.
- Understand how to navigate intersections and yield the right of way.

### MODERATE TRAFFIC IN DAYLIGHT (35 – 50 MPH)

#### FIVE ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Smoothly enter and exit highways.
- Understand how to pass and get passed on highways.
- Understand how to respond to traffic signs, lights and pavement markings.
- Navigate busy intersections, change lanes and yield to drivers.

### EXPRESSWAYS IN DAYLIGHT

#### TWO ONE-AND-A-HALF- HOUR SESSIONS

- Practice entering and exiting expressways (during non-peak and rush hours).
- Practice varying speed, position and path.
- Understand how to use defensive skills and be aware of others' blind spots.

### LIGHT TRAFFIC AT NIGHT (25 – 35 MPH)

#### TWO ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Increase following distance and space around the car.
- Practice how to properly use headlights.
- Understand the need to adjust speed as road conditions change.

### MODERATE TO HEAVY TRAFFIC AT NIGHT (35 – 65 MPH)

#### SEVEN ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Understand how to adjust glare in rearview mirror when on multiple-lane highways and expressways.

### ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN DAYLIGHT / AT NIGHT

#### SIX ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Recognize and respond to dangerous and/or changing road conditions.
- Recognize when to decrease speed and increase space around the car.
- Understand how to avoid and recover from skids and spins.
- Practice using windshield wipers and defrosters.

### COMPLEX SITUATIONS IN DAYLIGHT / AT NIGHT

#### SIX ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Practice performing three-point turns, turning around by pulling into driveways (right and left sides of street), backing into driveways and performing U-turns.

### TYPICAL ROADS FIRST MONTH AFTER RECEIVING LICENSE

#### FIVE ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Drive on roads your teen will most frequently travel.
- Practice perpendicular, angle and parallel parking.
- Understand what to do in the event of a crash.
- Review routine car maintenance requirements.

### MIXTURE OF SITUATIONS

#### FOUR ONE-HOUR SESSIONS

- Maintain focus for at least one hour of driving.
- Obey all traffic laws (including speed limits).
- Use directions to get to unfamiliar locations.
- Understand how to use maps and/or GPS systems when needed.

**Drive it HOME**  
HELPING YOU KEEP YOUR TEEN DRIVER SAFE

For more information, visit [DriveItHome.org](http://DriveItHome.org).

**SaferLIVES**  
In the home. On the road. In the community.  
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