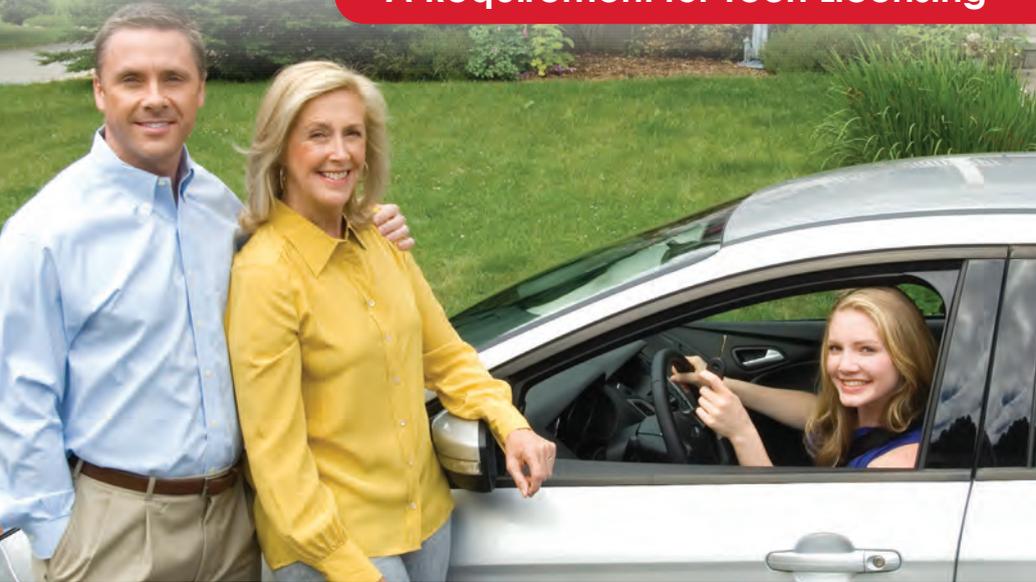


the **PARENT'S** supervised driving program



A Requirement for Teen Licensing



With Support From



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RoadReady®



Slow it down Wisconsin because when you speed, you lose.

In a hurry? Remember it's not always the fastest who wins. Ask yourself if it's worth the cost of a speeding ticket, plus increased insurance premiums or worse. On Wisconsin roads, speed-related crashes cause almost a third of all deaths so when you speed, you really lose. So remember to slow down and let's achieve zero deaths on Wisconsin roadways.



ZeroInWisconsin.gov

A message from the Secretary



As the parent or guardian of a teenager learning to drive, you play a critical role in your teen's development of safe and responsible driving habits. One of the most important things to do is to get lots of behind-the-wheel practice time with your teen; the more, the better. We have developed this useful guide to help you make the most of your driving time together.

I have a few thoughts to share before you hand over the keys. First, remind your teen that driving is a privilege that must be earned by following the rules of the road and making a commitment to drive safely and responsibly. Second, driving requires focus and attention. Our teens are often multi-tasking and constantly checking their phones; there is no place for this while driving. Cell phone use while driving is illegal for new drivers, and texting while driving is against the law for all drivers in Wisconsin. Finally, be a role model by practicing the habits you want your teen to develop.

At the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, we believe that even one preventable traffic death is one too many. As you help your teen driver learn good habits behind the wheel, please use this guide to partner with us as we work to achieve our vision of "Zero in Wisconsin."

– Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Mark Gottlieb

A message from the Administrator



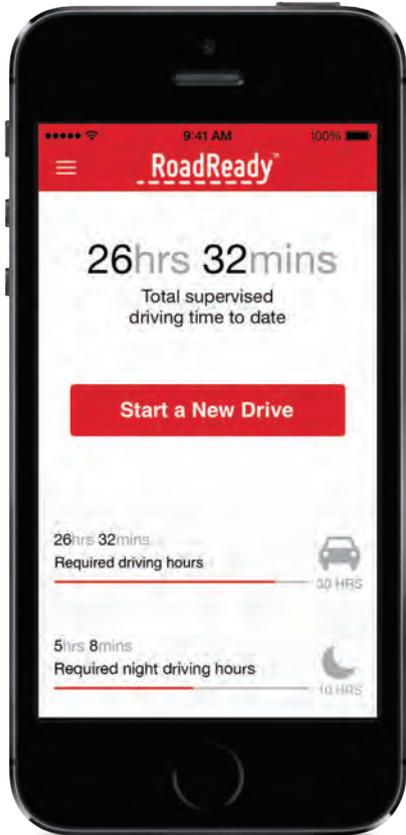
In Wisconsin, teens are involved in fatal crashes twice as often as all other drivers. To reduce teen driver deaths and injuries, all states, including Wisconsin, have enacted Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws. These laws phase in driving privileges for teen drivers over a period of months. GDL laws save lives; we see this in the data. In 2011, there were 60% fewer fatal crashes involving teen drivers than there were in 2000 when graduated licensing was enacted. GDL laws that require 30 or more hours of supervised driving, restrict nighttime driving, and limit the number of passengers a new driver can have in the car significantly reduce teen fatalities. Please know and enforce Wisconsin's GDL requirements with the young driver you are sponsoring; they can save your teen's life. You will find them on page 27.

We've designed this handbook to guide you through the process of behind-the-wheel training. Use it, practice together often and master each section to ensure that your teen develops safe and responsible driving skills. Buckle up, put your cell phone away, obey the speed limit and enjoy this exciting experience.

– Wisconsin DMV Administrator Patrick Fernan

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

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A component of
PARENT'S
supervised driving program

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Donald Driver,
Pro Football Legend



Take it from a Driver who always wears his seat belt.

Even a car crash at 15 mph without wearing a seat belt can feel like being hit by a 300 lb. lineman at full speed. In Wisconsin, you can get pulled over for not wearing a seat belt and you will get a ticket. Take it from a Driver who always wears his seat belt, every trip, every time. Click it or ticket, and let's achieve zero deaths on Wisconsin roadways.

ZeroInWisconsin.gov



The Parent's Supervised Driving 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 skill that is designed to build upon previous lessons and prepare the driver for future lessons. Parents are in the best position to help their teens to become safe, smart and skilled drivers.

This program is also available as a PDF. *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* also includes a website, social media pages and a mobile app, RoadReady®.

Website: www.theparentssuperviseddrivingprogram.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheParentsSupervisedDrivingProgram

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PSDP_Info

Instagram: www.instagram.com/roadreadyapp#

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/roadreadyapp/

President/Publisher: Jeff Larason - jeff@saferoadsalliance.org
Managing Editors: Rita Gallagher and Elizabeth LaBelle
Photographer: Tracy Aiguier
Illustrator: Lou Eisenman
Cover and Design: Elizabeth LaBelle

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The Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles



the PARENT'S supervised driving program

A Requirement for Teen Licensing

With Support From



YOUR OPINION MATTERS.



TAKE OUR PROGRAM SURVEY & TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE.

www.theparentssuperviseddrivingprogram.com/survey

A message from the sponsor

Technology has created a host of distractions for teen drivers that we, as their parents, didn't have when we were first getting behind the wheel. Factor in other distractions like weather and passengers and it's easy to see why inexperienced drivers under age 20 are the most likely to be involved in crashes caused by distracted drivers.



As a property/casualty insurance company, safety is at the very core of what we do. Yes, we provide coverage for our customers after accidents occur, but we also provide them with safety programs and tips in the hope that they can avoid those accidents. That's why West Bend Mutual Insurance Company is proud to sponsor *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program*. This program gives parents and new drivers a road map to identify and avoid distractions. The program also instills confidence through repetition, and creates a tracking mechanism to ensure new drivers complete the necessary hours of training through progressively challenging situations and conditions.

As a parent myself, I remember the apprehension I felt the first time my children ventured out on their own behind the wheel. With your active support, *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* can be a path for your teen to become a safe and successful driver.

On behalf of West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, I wish you and your family safe driving!

– Kevin Steiner

President and CEO of West Bend Mutual Insurance Company

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Parent-teen driving contract

Notes for parents/guardians:

Supervising teen drivers



- **Practice makes perfect.** Crash risk diminishes with experience.
 - Studies show that the more time you drive together, the safer your teen will be when driving alone.
- **Expose your teen to a variety of roadways and conditions.**
- **Be a driving role model and commit to helping your teen become a safe driver.**
 - Obey all traffic laws.
 - Correct unsafe habits (driving aggressively, rolling through stop signs, accelerating through yellow lights, speeding, etc.).
 - Don't talk on your cell phone or text while driving.

Tips for teaching:

- Always wear seat belts.
- Discuss the goals of the day's lesson before each session; review the previous lesson before starting a new one.
- Keep instructions simple and concise. Say where to go and what to do. "Drive to the corner and turn right."
- Provide calm, precise, immediate feedback. Be patient, stay alert and give positive feedback when your teen succeeds!

- Don't criticize. Emphasize that mistakes are a normal part of learning.
- Repeat each lesson as many times as needed for your teen to master the skill before moving on to the next lesson.
- If the lessons in this program are different from the instructor's, contact the instructor to clarify the discrepancy.
- Integrate night driving into as many lessons as possible.
- Make sure your vehicle is safe. Confirm that brakes have been recently inspected, and tires have sufficient tread depth. Don't train in larger vehicles that lack stability control.

After receiving their license, drivers under age 18 have additional restrictions for the first nine months.

- From 5 a.m. to midnight, your teen can drive alone and go anywhere. Any number of immediate family members can ride along as well as ONE non-family member.
- From midnight to 5 a.m., your teen can drive alone only IF driving between home, school or work. If driving anywhere else, one of the following people must be seated in the front passenger seat: a parent or legal guardian or a person 21 or older with a valid, regular license with two years of licensed driving experience. Any number of immediate family members and one other person may ride along.
- These restrictions will be extended six months if your teen is convicted of a moving traffic violation OR violates any of the restrictions OR their license is suspended or revoked for any reason.

Before a lesson, be sure to leave problems behind

- Avoid subjects like grades, homework, boyfriends, girlfriends or other issues that might be distracting.
- Enjoy the learning process.

Notes for parents/guardians:

Vehicle control for supervisors



Teaching can be stressful. Knowing you have some control helps ease that stress. **Maintain some control** from the passenger seat.

- **Practice emergency shifting.** In a quiet, large, level, empty area, practice shifting the transmission from drive to neutral.
- **Take 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.
- **Adjust the mirror on the passenger sun visor.** Use it as a rearview mirror. Adjust the right-side mirror to monitor traffic from behind.
- **Always check and re-check mirrors before you give instructions.**

Cars have changed. To teach effectively, know how cars work, how we drive and how driving is taught.

- **Anti-lock brake system (ABS)** is either standard or optional equipment in most newer-model cars. A dramatic safety improvement, it lets tires rotate, rather than lock up, when the brake is engaged, allowing drivers to turn the car in an emergency stop. ABS should be used with firm, continuous pressure; brakes may shake and grind when applied. This is normal. To find out if your car has ABS, check the instrument panel after you turn on the ignition, or read the owner's manual.

- **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 avoid locking the brakes and skidding.
- **Air bags** are designed to work with seat belts, which must be worn for the air bags to be effective. Since air bags explode out of the wheel on impact, it's important to keep your hands and arms clear of that explosion to avoid injury.
- **Steering wheel hand position** should be at 9 and 3 o'clock. This gives you better vehicle control and keeps your arms clear in case the air bag deploys.
- **Steering wheel height** should point toward your chest, as far down as is comfortable, to protect you if the air bag deploys.

HAND POSITION



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

"Commentary driving" is a great communication tool

- **Have your teen describe their actions, thoughts and observations as they drive – like a sports commentator.**
- **Have your teen describe what they see around them, including potential risks and steps to avoid those risks.**

Notes for parents/guardians:

Keeping your teen safe



You play a critical role. Newly-licensed teens crash much more often than older, more experienced drivers. To build safe driving habits, require your teen to:

- **Limit passengers in the car.** A teen driving with other teens in the car is more likely to crash; the more kids in the car, the more likely they are to crash. For the first nine months after obtaining their license, your teen cannot drive with more than one non-family member in the car.
- **Buckle up.** Teens buckle up far less frequently than adults. Recent studies show that the majority of young people 16 to 20 years old involved in fatal crashes were unbuckled.
- **Drive sober.** Teens are at far greater risk of death in an alcohol-related crash than the overall population. Alcohol and driving are a deadly combination.
- **Pay attention.** Any distracting behavior increases the risk of a crash. This includes eating, drinking, adjusting the radio and adjusting the mirrors. Never text or use a cell phone or other electronic device while driving.
- **Communicate.** Have and enforce ground rules. Wisconsin DMV offers a parent/teen driver contract on page 57 of this book and online at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/teens/contract.htm>. Know where your teen is going with the car.

- **Get enough sleep.** As teens get older, they tend to get less sleep. Teen drivers who sleep less than eight hours a night are 33 percent more likely to crash than teens who get more than eight hours of sleep. This lack of sleep results in more risk-taking behaviors and reduces the ability to process information, be attentive and have good reflexes – all crucial driving skills.
- **Practice.** Until teens are much more experienced, they run a greater risk of crashing, being hurt or killed.
- **Limit night driving.** For teens, the most severe crashes occur at night and on weekends. Novice drivers do not have the experience to anticipate and react when visibility is reduced. When teens drive at night, it is more often with a lack of adult supervision, with other teen passengers and at high speeds – all of which increase risk.

After receiving their license, drivers under age 18 have additional restrictions for the first nine months.

- From 5 a.m. to midnight, your teen can drive alone and go anywhere. Any number of immediate family members can ride along as well as ONE non-family member.
- From midnight to 5 a.m., your teen can drive alone only IF driving between home, school or work. If driving anywhere else, one of the following people must be seated in the front passenger seat: a parent or legal guardian or a person 21 or older with a valid, regular license with two years of licensed driving experience. Any number of immediate family members and one other person may ride along.
- These restrictions will be extended six months if your teen is convicted of a moving traffic violation OR violates any of the restrictions OR their license is suspended or revoked for any reason.

It is illegal for your teen to talk or text on a cell phone while driving.

- **The back seat or the glove box is a good place to store a cell phone while driving.**

Notes for parents/guardians:

Distracted driving and more



Distracted driving is any activity that distracts from driving. It joins drunk driving, speeding and not wearing seat belts as a leading cause of death and injury in motor vehicle crashes – especially for teens.

- Crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Mile for mile, teens are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers.
- In 2012, in the United States, 3,328 people were killed and an estimated 421,000 were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver. That's a nine percent increase from the estimated 387,000 injured in 2011.
- Dialing a phone while driving increases crash risk by as much as six times. Texting increases crash risk by 23 times. It is against the law for your teen to use a cell phone while driving.

To help keep your teen safe:

- **Set a good example.** Don't use your cell phone or text while driving. Texting while driving is illegal in Wisconsin. Some 40 percent of teens 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.
- **Discuss the risks of distracted driving** - particularly cell phone use.

- **Set up family rules** about not talking on the phone or texting while behind the wheel. It's illegal for your teen.
- **Sign a pledge.** Have your teen agree to wear a seat belt, drive the speed limit, drive sober and park the car when using a cell phone. Agree on penalties for violating the pledge. Wisconsin DMV offers a parent/teen driver contract on page 57 of this book and online at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/teens/contract.htm>.

Other types of distracted driving include eating, grooming, drinking, listening to or adjusting the radio or MP3 player, using the GPS, talking to passengers or watching a video. In Wisconsin, using a cell phone while driving is illegal for any driver with an instruction permit or a probationary license. The only exception is to report an emergency.

Help your teen stay focused

- **Teens tend to become distracted for longer periods than older drivers.**
- **Coach your teen to never look away for longer than two seconds.**
- **Test your teen on how long they look away when doing various tasks inside the vehicle, such as tuning the radio.**

Skill One:

Before you start the engine



Goal: Teach your teen vehicle basics before driving begins.

Location: Parked at home. This is a non-driving lesson.

1. Walk around the car with your teen. Look for leaks and hazards such as broken glass. Make sure it's clear behind and in front of the vehicle.
2. 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
3. Teach correct mirror settings.
 - **Inside mirror.** Have your teen sit up straight in the driver's seat and adjust the inside mirror so that it frames the entire rear window. This is the main mirror for viewing what is behind the vehicle.
 - **Left-side mirror.** Have your teen lean their head towards the left-side window, and set the left mirror so they can barely see the side of the car. When they sit up straight, the car should no longer be visible in the mirror.

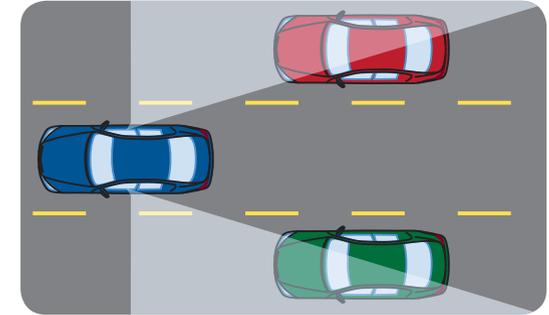
- **Right-side mirror.** Do the same to the right. Have your teen lean to the right over the car's center console, and set the right mirror so they can barely see the right side of the car.

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

Proper seat position:

- Your teen should sit with their back firmly against the seat.
- There should be at least 12 inches between the steering wheel and your teen's chest, with the air bag pointing at the chest. Shorter drivers may need a seat cushion or pedal extenders to sit safely 12 inches from the air bag.
- The top of the steering wheel should be no higher than the shoulders.
- Move the seat forward or backward so that your teen's heel touches the floor and can pivot between the brake and accelerator.
- The head restraint should be at the center of the head.

CHECKING BLIND SPOTS



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

Get to know your vehicle together

- You may have been taught mirror settings that caused overlap between the rear and side mirrors, but now we know that this is less safe.
- Update your own knowledge while teaching your teen!

Skill Two:

Moving, steering and stopping

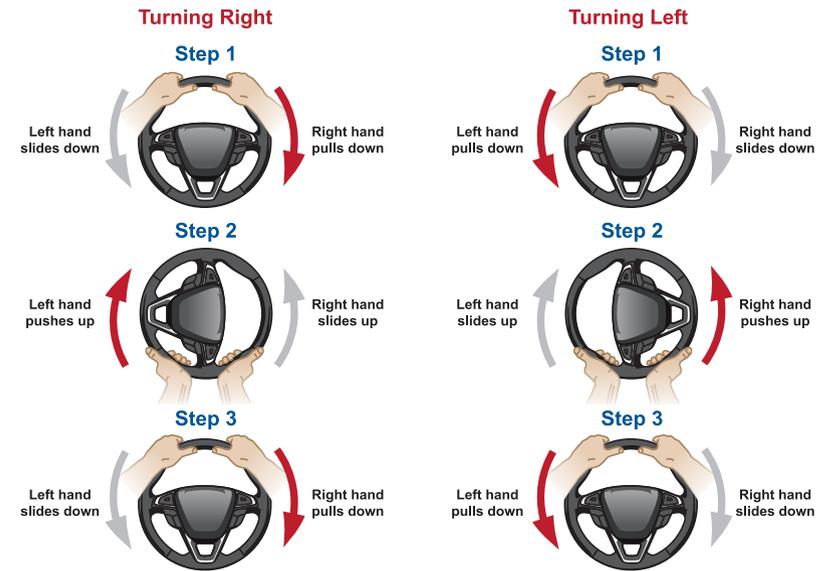


Goal: Teach your teen to consistently start, stop and turn smoothly with full vehicle control.

Location: A large, level, mostly empty area.

1. Everyone in the vehicle **must** be properly buckled up.
2. Before starting, coach your teen to always signal and check mirrors and blind spots before changing the speed, position or direction of the car. Remind them when needed.
3. Have your teen drive around the perimeter of the lot several times at a slow speed, stopping and starting frequently, practicing smooth steering, braking and accelerating.
4. Pick several targets, and 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.
5. Once your teen is braking smoothly, practice hard, smooth stops at slightly higher speeds (approximately 25–30 mph). Curling toes back just before braking results in smoother stops and eases the pressure on the brake.
6. Practice turning techniques.

STEPS TOWARD TURNING



With push-pull-feed steering your hands do not cross each other.

- Ease off the accelerator, or use the brake to reduce speed before entering a curve, and 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.**

Go easy on the brake

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

Skill Three:

How close are you?



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

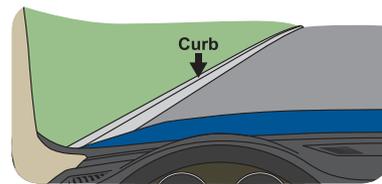
Location: A large, level, mostly empty area with clearly painted pavement lines and curbs.

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

1. Driver's side curb (or line):

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

DRIVER'S SIDE CURB

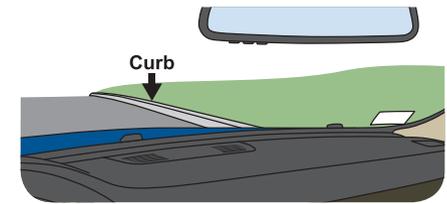


View out the front windshield. Reference points will be different for everyone, depending on the vehicle and the height of the driver.

2. Passenger's side curb (or line):

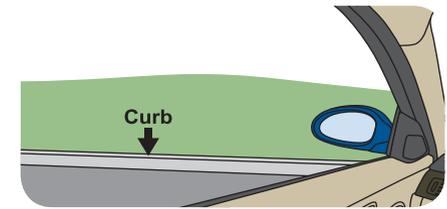
- Choose another curb (or line) parallel to the passenger's side, again pulling up slowly to within 6–12 inches. Use the same gradual pull-up method, but for this side, coach your teen to stop when the curb appears to intersect the center of the hood.
- Have your teen get out of the vehicle to check 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.

PASSENGER'S SIDE CURB



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

FRONT CURB



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

3. 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 not, have them adjust the reference point as needed, and keep practicing.

Practice makes perfect

- It takes more than 15 minutes every day for 6 months to complete 50 hours of practice driving.
- Wisconsin requires at least 30 hours of driving practice to be eligible for a driver license.

Skill Four:

Backing up



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

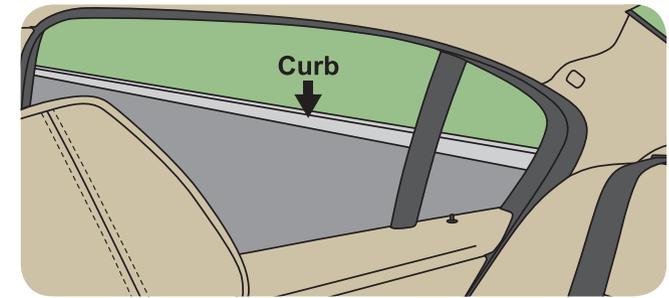
Location: A large, level, mostly empty area.

1. Before moving the vehicle:
 - Coach your teen to turn around and look backwards through the rear window when backing up. Using mirrors or back-up cameras doesn't give a full view and is dangerous!
 - Have your teen shift their hips and turn around until they get a good view behind the vehicle. They should drape their right arm over the back of the seat and grasp the top of the steering wheel with their left hand.
2. Practice backing up in a straight line.
 - Check all areas behind the vehicle before and while backing up.
 - Hold 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.
3. Once your teen can back up in a straight line consistently, practice backing up into a turn.
 - If turning to the left, hold the steering wheel with the right hand. If turning to the right, hold it with the left hand. Remind your teen to turn

the wheel in the direction they want the car to travel.

- Look in the direction the car is moving through the rear side windows.
- Back into the turn slowly, first releasing the brake, then using the accelerator gently and only when necessary - to control speed.

BACKING UP



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.

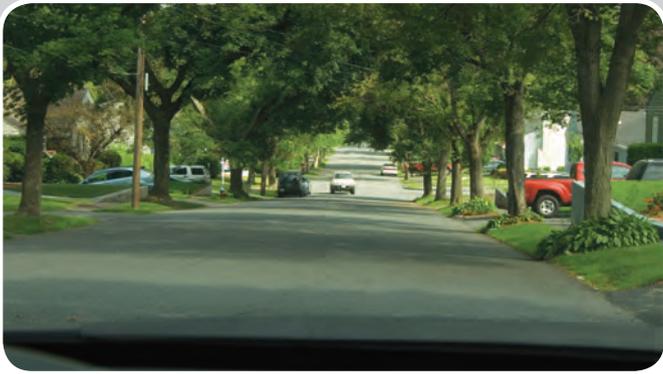
4. Practice aligning the rear bumper close to a line or curb, using a reference point (see previous lesson).
 - Choose a line or curb for a target.
 - Have your teen back up toward the target, coaching them to stop when the line or curb appears near the middle of the rear right window when looking over 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, try again, establishing a new reference point. Repeat as often as needed until your teen can consistently come within close proximity of the target.

Driving in reverse? Do it slowly.

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

Skill Five:

Driving on a quiet street – part 1



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 ready.

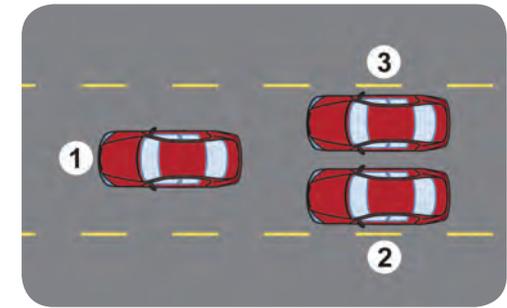
Before moving out onto the road, make sure that your teen has reviewed the driver's manual and is familiar with street signs, signals, pavement markings and traffic laws.

1. Lane position:

- Starting in a quiet, large, level, empty area, review the skills learned so far. 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 pavement lines or curbs.
- Coach your teen to use “commentary driving” (see page 4).
- When ready, move to a quiet street.
- With your teen behind the wheel, first practice driving straight in three different lane positions. Do this for several miles, practicing each position at least 10 times:

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

LANE POSITION



Most driving is done in lane position number one.

- **Left position (2):** The vehicle is positioned to the left side of the lane. This is best used when approaching a hill or curve.
- **Right position (3):** The vehicle is 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.

2. Intersections:

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

Watch for children playing, and prepare to stop quickly.

- Quiet streets are often found in residential areas where children play outside and ride their bicycles.
- Drive slowly, glancing frequently for children playing and bicycling. Children don't often watch for cars.

Skill Five:

Driving on a quiet street – part 2



Goal: Teach your teen to turn 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.

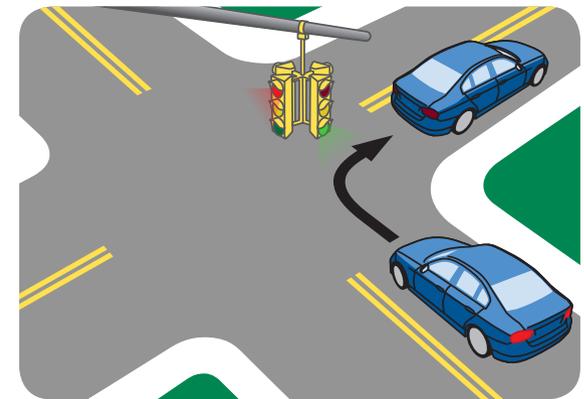
Making Turns: When your teen is comfortable with lane positions and intersections, practice turns.

1. Start with **right turns**, and drive clockwise around the block 10–12 times.
 - Pick a line at the center of the intended travel path while steering through a turn. Make sure your teen does not fixate on one specific spot but instead focuses on a broader path.
 - Focus on smooth braking into the turn and acceleration out of the turn, as previously practiced in the large, level, empty area.
 - Always check mirrors before turns, and signal four seconds before turning.
2. When proficient at right turns, move on to **left turns**. Drive counterclockwise around the block 10–12 times.
 - Position the vehicle close to the yellow line in the middle of the road.
 - If there is a stop sign or red light, stop with wheels pointed straight ahead before the stop line, crosswalk or intersection.

- Search the intersection in all directions for vehicles, pedestrians, signs and signals.
- Select a gap in traffic, and pull straight forward toward the middle of the intersection. Coach your teen to avoid hesitating.
- Use the yellow line on the street you are turning 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.

Practice in a variety of conditions, including at night and in inclement weather, as much as possible.

MAKING TURNS



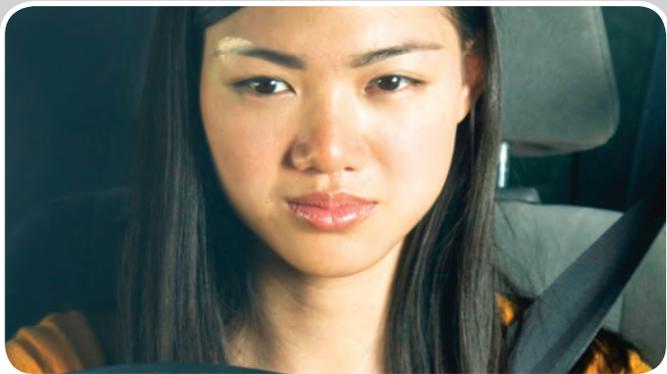
Have your teen drive around the block making right turns 10–12 times. When they are proficient, drive around the block 10–12 times making left turns.

Drivers tend to steer where they look

- If their eyes move to one side, the car may drift in that direction too.
- When turning, remind your teen to focus on a path line in the middle of their travel - and not to fixate on lane lines or other objects.
- The rest of the area should be scanned quickly and frequently.

Skill Six:

Looking ahead



Goal: Develop defensive driving techniques and higher-level visual and anticipatory driving skills. Teach your teen to always look 12–15 seconds down the road; they will spot hazards early and be well prepared to react.

Location: Start on a quiet neighborhood street. Move to a road with light traffic when ready.

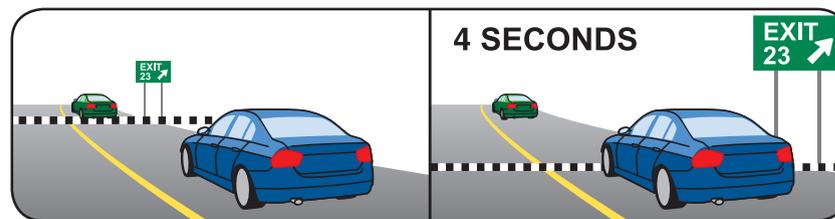
1. Teach your teen to recognize, anticipate and avoid risks.
 - **Identify** potential risks, like oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, obstacles or intersections.
 - **Predict** when and where there will be a conflict or problem.
 - **Decide** on the best course of action.
 - **Execute** that action.

As your teen drives, ask them to verbally describe their thoughts and actions in order to **identify** potential risks they see, **predict** problems these risks could cause, **decide** what to do to avoid a problem and **execute** the maneuver.

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

3. Teach the **four-second rule** for the appropriate following distance when driving behind other vehicles. It 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.

FOUR-SECOND RULE



Your front bumper should not pass before you've reached "four."

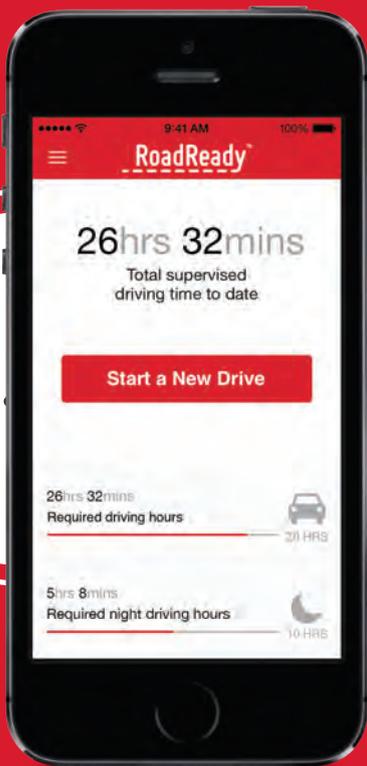
When the vehicle in front of you passes an object, you should count four seconds before your car passes that object:

- Start counting when the rear bumper of the vehicle in front of you passes an object.
- Count "one thousand ONE, one thousand TWO, one thousand THREE, one thousand FOUR."
- Your front bumper should pass that same object AS or AFTER you count "four."

Practice the four-second rule at least 10–12 times, counting out loud to check whether your following distance is appropriate.

Keep enough distance between your car and the car ahead

- **Rear-end collisions are the most common form of a car crash.**
- **Emphasize to your teen that increasing following distance is the best way to prevent a crash.**



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the **PARENT'S** 
supervised driving program

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles



Supervised driving log – use it!

Parents must certify that their teen has a minimum of 30 hours of supervised driving, with at least 10 hours at night. Keep track of driving time and experience with this log. The more time you spend practicing with your teen, the better driver they will be on their own.

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

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Instruction permit restrictions

Once your teen holds an instruction permit, they may drive only when accompanied by a qualified person. The number of passengers is limited.

The person accompanying your teen must:

- Have two years driving experience
- Hold a valid regular (not probationary or occupational) driver license
- Sit in the front passenger seat
- Be one of the following
 - A qualified instructor 19 or older (Up to three others may ride along if the car is equipped with dual controls)
 - A parent, guardian or spouse 19 or older (Immediate family members may ride along in the back seat)
 - A person 21 or older (This person must be designated in writing by a parent or guardian prior to accompanying your teen while your teen drives)

If your teen is at least 16 years of age, in addition to the licensed accompanying driver, one other license person 25 years or older, with at least two years driving experience may occupy a seat in the vehicle other than the front seat.

Teen license requirements

Wisconsin residents UNDER 18 years of age must fulfill the following requirements to obtain a driver license.

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Successfully complete an approved driver education course.
- Have an adult sponsor.
- Hold an Instruction Permit for at least six months.
- Be violation free for six months.
- Have 30 hours of driving experience (10 of which must be at night).
- Be enrolled in a school program or high school equivalency program and not be a habitual truant – or have graduated from high school or have been granted a declaration of high school graduation equivalency – or be enrolled in a home-based private education program.
- Pass the driving skills test.

Your teen can schedule a road test appointment online up to 11 weeks in advance at www.wisconsin.dmv.gov (found under online services).

Teen driver restrictions – know and enforce them

All novice drivers receive restricted licenses to help keep them safe. This is called a probationary license – and it is valid for driving according to the restrictions on the back.

Drivers under 18 have additional restrictions for the first nine months.

- From 5 a.m. to midnight, your teen can drive alone and go anywhere. Any number of immediate family members can ride along as well as ONE non-family member.
- From midnight to 5 a.m., your teen can drive alone only IF driving between home, school or work. If driving anywhere else, one of the following people must be seated in the front passenger seat: a parent or legal guardian or a person 21 or older with a valid, regular license with two years of licensed driving experience. Any number of immediate family members and one other person may ride along.
- These restrictions will be extended six months if your teen is convicted of a moving traffic violation OR violates any of the restrictions OR their license is suspended or revoked for any reason.

Demerit points double for moving traffic convictions after your teen's first conviction.

Your teen's license will be suspended for six months if they accumulate 12 or more points within a 12-month period.

Your teen's license will expire two years from their next birthday. For example, if a new driver is 16 years old on the date they obtain their probationary license, the earliest that license would expire would be on their 19th birthday.

When your teen is driving, as a general rule, you can only have one passenger in addition to immediate family.

Start safe. Stay safe.



Help teen drivers learn safe driving habits that will help keep them safe for the rest of their lives.

- **Set an example.** When you're driving, use safe practices like traveling at posted limits, not following other cars too closely, and obeying traffic lights and signs. Not only can this have a positive effect on your child, it makes you a safer driver, too.
- **Take an active role.** When your teen is learning to drive, practice with him/her in a variety of situations, including at night and in adverse weather.
- **Restrict night driving.**

West Bend is proud to be a sponsor of *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* in Wisconsin, and to support all efforts to keep teen drivers safe.

For more information about West Bend's Young Drivers Program, including a short film by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and West Bend's Beginning Teen Drivers Guide, visit thesilverlining.com.



Skill Seven:

Turning around



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

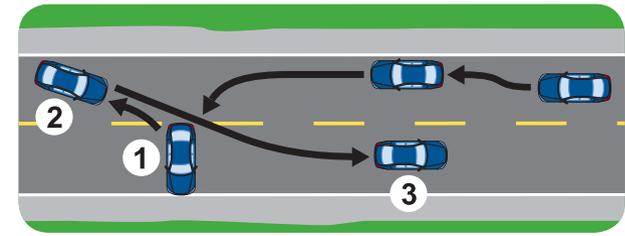
Location: Start on a quiet neighborhood street with accessible driveways. Move to a multi-lane road for U-turns.

Emphasize that before pulling over to the side of the road, they should signal, check traffic in mirrors and blind spots, and only pull over when it's safe.

1. **Teach two-point turns.** A two-point turn involves backing into a driveway to reverse direction. On a quiet street, have your teen identify an available driveway on the same side of the street as your car, at a point where they can see oncoming traffic for at least 200 feet.
 - Pull just ahead of the driveway, making sure there is no traffic behind the car, and signal.
 - Make sure the road is clear behind the car and the driveway, put the car in reverse, and then back into the driveway.
 - Shift back into drive and check the road for approaching traffic from both directions.
 - When it's clear, turn back on to the road.
2. **Teach three-point or Y turns.** This is not recommended for general use, but may be used in residential areas on streets too narrow for a U-turn.
 - Check for traffic in your mirrors and blind spot. Signal right. Pull as far right as possible and stop.

- Check traffic in mirrors and blind spot. When the way is clear, signal left. Make a left-angle turn to the

THREE-POINT TURNS



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

- Check traffic to left and right. Turn front wheels as far right as possible. Looking behind the vehicle, back far enough so the vehicle clears the curb when you pull forward. Check traffic to left and right and proceed when the way is clear.
3. **Practice U-turns.** U-turns can be dangerous and should only be done where they are legal. Remind your teen that in Wisconsin, U-turns are allowed on an undivided highway where the driver has visibility of 500 feet or greater down the road. They are also allowed at intersections unless there is a sign prohibiting them.
 - Begin the U-turn in the left lane, closest to the center line or median.
 - Be sure there is enough room to make the turn without hitting the curb or any parked cars.
 - Signal to indicate the direction of the turn, checking carefully for oncoming traffic.
 - Move forward, turning the wheel sharply to turn around.
 - Finish the U-turn in the opposite direction and accelerate to an appropriate speed.

There are a number of ways to turn your vehicle around

- Remind your teen that the safest and easiest way to turn around is to drive around the block.

Skill Eight:

Parking – part 1



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

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

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

1. **Angle Parking:** This is 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.

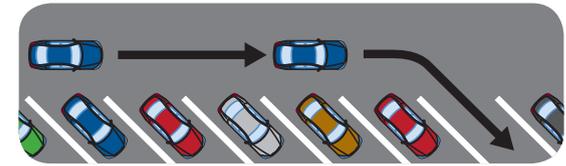
2. **Perpendicular Parking:**

- The steps are the same, but the sharper turn into perpendicular spaces may require more practice.

3. Exiting an angled or perpendicular parking space:

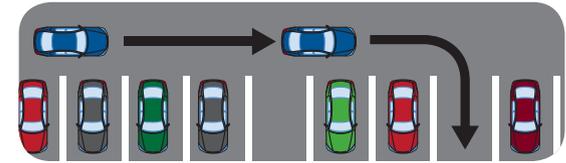
- With a foot on the brake, shift into reverse; this signals that you are backing up.
- Turn around to look for oncoming traffic.
- **For angled spaces,** back up straight until the driver’s seat is even with the bumper of the next vehicle on the turning side. **For perpendicular spaces,** back up straight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

ANGLE PARKING



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

PERPENDICULAR PARKING



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

Practice parking often - it's a difficult skill to learn

- Many crashes happen in parking lots. Mastering parking skills helps avoid collisions.
- Practice angle and perpendicular parking 15–20 times each.
- Practice in parking garages – a more challenging environment.

Skill Eight:

Parking – part 2



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.

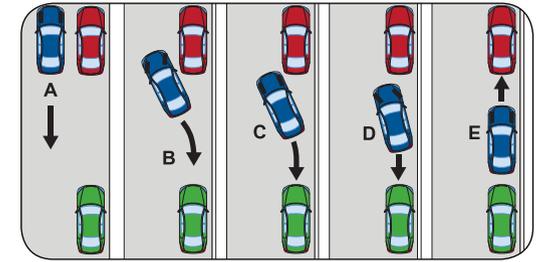
Parallel parking is difficult, so have patience. Many drivers never learn to do it well. Because it is difficult, and because there are several different teaching methods, **this skill is sometimes best taught by a professional driving instructor**. Assess your own abilities and your teen's abilities before beginning.

1. Entering a parallel parking space:

- Select an available space on the passenger's side of the car.
- Signal 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. 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.

PARALLEL PARKING



In the beginning you could start by practicing with cones.

2. 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.

3. 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:
 - Towards 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.

Parallel parking is difficult to master – be patient

- When practicing parallel parking, your teen will probably hit the curb.
- 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.

Skill Nine:

Driving on rural roads



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

Location: A two-lane rural road.

Coach your teen to notice and respond to these hazards.

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

Sharp drop-offs and gravel shoulders: One of the most common driving hazards is running off the road. The urge to overcorrect is strong and often results in a serious crash. If you run off the road, follow these steps to ease your vehicle back onto the road:

- Do not turn the wheel; continue driving straight.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Find a safe place to reenter the road.
- Turn on your turn signal and reenter the road when it is clear.

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

Uncontrolled intersections: They are not controlled by yield or stop signs. Use caution, slow down, and prepare to stop for oncoming traffic. The vehicle on the right has the right of way. The vehicle on the left should yield.

Animals: If unable to stop for an animal crossing the road, do NOT swerve – swerving makes it hard to keep control. The most serious crashes happen when drivers swerve into oncoming traffic or roll into a ditch.

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

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

Railroad crossings: Always slow down, look both ways, and prepare to stop. Many railroad crossings are marked only with a round yellow railroad crossing ahead warning sign and a white X-shaped railroad crossing. There may not be flashing lights, warning bells, crossing gates or pavement markings.

Highway hypnosis: This condition can result from driving for a long period of time. Remind your teen that it is important to stay alert when driving. To avoid driving in a dulled, drowsy trance-like state, take frequent breaks, and stop if you begin to feel tired.

Velocitation: This is caused by slowing down after driving fast for a long time. The change makes you think that the car is going much slower than it actually is, leading you to drive faster than you intend. Don't be misled. After slowing down, make sure to check your speedometer regularly.

Rural roads can be very dangerous

- Rural roads account for 57 percent of all traffic fatalities. Speeding is often the reason.
- Help your teen understand that some road conditions and driving hazards are unique to rural roads.

Skill Ten:

Multi-lane roads – part 1



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

Location: A busier multi-lane road at a time with limited traffic, such as a weekend morning. Move on to a time with heavier traffic as your teen gains practice.

Review skills. By now, your teen should be comfortable driving on quiet roads. Before starting multi-lane road practice, review key information from previous lessons crucial to safe driving on busier, more complicated roads:

1. **Mirror position, monitoring and blind spots (Skills One and Two):**
 - Clearly seeing adjacent traffic is especially important on multi-lane roads. Remind your teen to check the mirror positions when entering the car and constantly monitor surrounding traffic.
2. **Stopping distance (Skill Six):**
 - Remind your teen that when stopping behind another vehicle, your car should be far enough back to see where the other car's tires meet the road.
3. **Following distance (Skill Six):**
 - Review the four-second rule with your teen, emphasizing that increasing following distance is the single best way to prevent a crash. It gives the driver visibility, time and space to avoid crashes.

Safe lane changing:

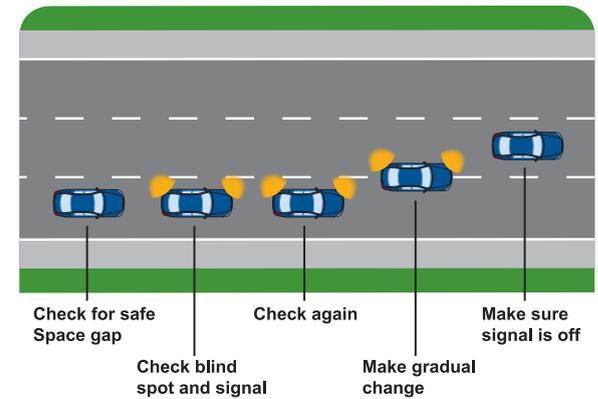
Coach your teen not to change lanes unnecessarily. Most travel lanes flow at around the same rate. Changing doesn't actually save time, but it does increase crash risk.

Ask your teen to list valid reasons to change lanes. Good answers include make a turn, avoid an obstacle, exit the road, park or 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 four-second rule.

MULTI-LANE ROADS



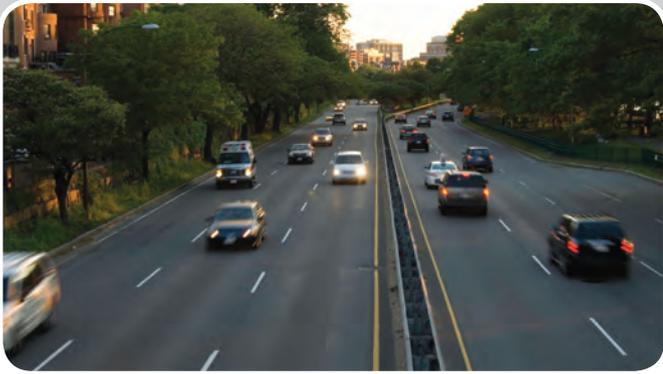
When changing lanes, always recheck traffic with a glance over the shoulder at the blind spot.

Watch for cyclists, and give them plenty of room

- Motorcycles, bicyclists and pedestrians are more difficult to see than cars because they are smaller – and drivers tend to focus on cars.
- Traffic, weather and road conditions require cyclists to react differently.

Skill Ten:

Multi-lane roads – part 2



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

Location: A busier multi-lane road at a time with limited traffic, such as a weekend morning. Move on to a time with heavier traffic as your teen gains practice.

1. Right turns on multi-lane roads:

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

2. Left turns on multi-lane roads:

- 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 your teen is turning into should be the target. There are three types:
 - **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

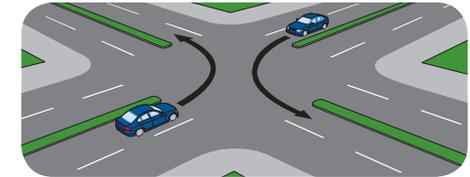
3. Protected left turns:

- Turn from the designated lane when the left turn signal displays a green arrow. Use the yellow line in the lane you are turning into as the steering target.

4. Semi-protected and unprotected left turns:

- 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.
- 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.

TURNING ON MULTI-LANE ROADS



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

5. Safe passing procedures (discourage passing if it is not necessary):

- Position your vehicle more than three seconds behind the vehicle you are passing.
- Check mirrors and blind spots for oncoming traffic.
- Check the passing lane ahead to make sure there's plenty of space.
- Signal intent to pass, and accelerate quickly to match the speed of traffic flow.
- Move into the passing lane, accelerate and continue to move forward.
- 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, then gently and slowly move back to the original lane, turn off the signal and maintain speed.

Speed and distance of oncoming traffic is hard to judge

- Left turns are hard to master. Be patient.
- Practice judging oncoming vehicles' distance from your vehicle by counting out loud the time it takes for them to reach your car from a designated point.

Skill Eleven:

City driving – part 1



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

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

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

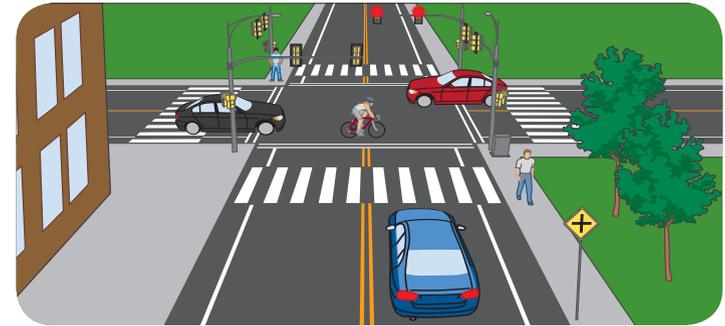
1. Looking ahead (Skill Six):

- Congested city driving leaves very little room for error. Identifying and anticipating potential problems is crucial.

2. 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.

CITY DRIVING



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

Identifying hazards:

Have your teen drive through several blocks to identify common hazards on busy, congested streets and describe how they will safely deal with them.

Hazards 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

Constant awareness and looking ahead are critical to safe city driving

- A green light means scan the intersection first and then go.

Skill Eleven:

City driving – part 2



Goal: Teach your teen to drive safely and confidently in the complex environment of city driving. You won't achieve this in a single session.

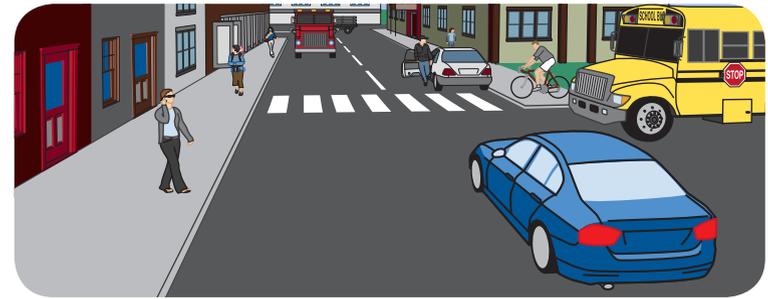
Location: Busy urban streets. Start at times when traffic is light; move on to heavier traffic times as your teen gains practice.

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 have your teen identify the steps to safely avoid obstacles.

- Identify right-lane obstacles: stopped buses, parked cars, delivery trucks and cyclists.
- Identify left-lane obstacles: 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. 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 is tempting to **pass vehicles** on congested streets, when obstacles or traffic volume make travel slow. However, this can be dangerous, due to closely-spaced intersections, irregular traffic flow, cars entering and exiting parking spots, etc. Avoid passing on busy city streets.

CITY DRIVING



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

Identify deadly distractions: Ask your teen to list dangerous driving distractions. Answers should include:

- Talking or texting (these are the most dangerous distractions)
- Changing radio stations, or shuffling/streaming music – or dialing a phone
- Passengers, pets or objects moving in the car
- Eating, drinking or smoking
- Searching for an item
- Intense or emotional conversations
- Combing hair or looking in the mirror

Coach your teen to **avoid distracting activities** and focus on keeping as much space as possible around the vehicle at all times.

City driving skills take a long time to acquire

- Spend as much time and drive in as many circumstances with your teen (night, bad weather, heavy traffic) as you are able.
- Plan trips to less-familiar places where you might not normally travel.

Skill Twelve:

Highway driving – part 1



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

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

1. Merging and exiting:

- First, spend some time on highways with your teen as the passenger. When driving, emphasize the importance of looking ahead to anticipate potential problems, and explain key highway features, such as:
 - Different kinds of interchanges
 - The meanings of highway signs and signals
 - The meanings of different lane lines and markings

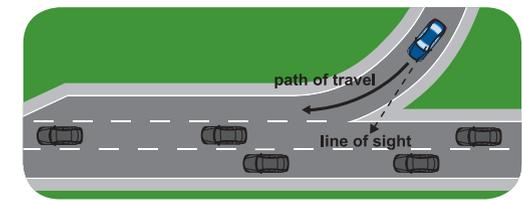
2. Using on-ramps:

- **Entrance area:** allows the driver time to search the highway and evaluate how much space they have to enter and what speed is needed.
- **Acceleration area:** place where the driver brings the vehicle up to the speed of highway traffic flow.
- **Merge area:** the space where the driver merges into the traffic flow.

3. Merging onto a highway:

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

HIGHWAY DRIVING



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

4. Exiting a highway:

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

Constant awareness and looking ahead are critical to learning to drive safely

- Practice both merging and exiting at least 10–12 times or more if needed until your teen feels comfortable.

Skill Twelve:

Highway driving – part 2



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

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

Highway driving skills: Coach your teen on steering technique. At fast highway speeds, excessive steering is dangerous and can lead to loss of control. Remind your teen to steer gently.

In the high-speed, complex highway environment, lane-changing skills are 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 highway 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.

Review the four-second rule for following distance (“Skill Six: Looking ahead.”)

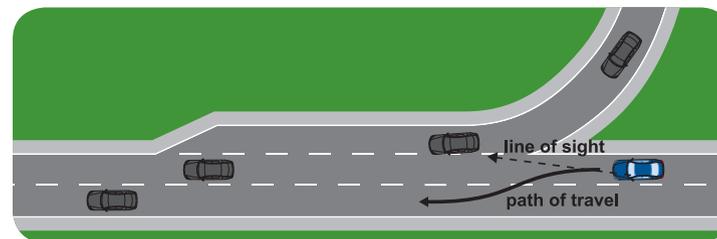
Use a four-second rule for these highway driving circumstances:

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

Coach your teen to adjust travel speed and vehicle position based on weather and road conditions. Once your teen is comfortable and proficient at highway driving in good conditions, practice under challenging conditions, such as rain. Coach them to always use appropriate caution, as conditions can change quickly.

Take short day trips with your teen to a destination two to three hours away, and have them drive. Find an event or place that you will both enjoy, and have fun.

HIGHWAY DRIVING



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

Focus on “higher order” instruction

- **Early in the training process, parental instruction tends to focus on vehicle handling.**
- **As your teen’s skills improve, focus on scanning ahead, detecting hazards and anticipating the other driver’s behavior.**

Skill Thirteen:

Roundabouts



Roundabouts are becoming more common in the U.S. because they provide safer and more efficient traffic flow than standard intersections. Wisconsin statistics show that roundabouts reduce fatal and injury crashes by about 52% and reduce overall crashes by about 9%, when compared to other types of intersection control.

DRIVING A ONE-LANE ROUNDABOUT

1. Driving a roundabout:

- Slow down. Obey traffic signs.
- 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.



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

- As you approach your exit, turn on your right turn signal.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicycles as you exit.

2. Emergency vehicles in a roundabout:

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

3. Driving a roundabout with two or more lanes:

- As you approach the roundabout, it is very important to observe the signs and arrows to determine which lane to use before entering. Black and white signs on the side of the road and white arrows on the road will show the correct lane to use. 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 what lane is correct.

Rules for roundabouts

- Drive slowly in roundabouts.
- Remember that you always yield to traffic on your left.

More to master:

Practice in all conditions



Driving in some conditions – including bad weather, at night and in heavy traffic is challenging. Help your teen practice and develop the skills necessary to be safe in all conditions.

Night driving: A driver's reaction time depends on their vision, which is limited at night. This makes it more difficult to make judgments and see pedestrians, bicyclists, and other obstacles.

- Glare from oncoming headlights makes it difficult to see. Looking toward the right side of the road and flipping the rearview mirror can help to reduce headlight glare.
- Turn on headlights before sundown to make the car more visible.
- Use high beams only when other drivers won't see them, such as on isolated roadways with little traffic.
- To compensate for reduced visibility, drive more slowly and increase following distance.

Wet/slippery roads:

- 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 five or six seconds.
- Slow down on curves and when approaching intersections.
- Turn the defroster on to keep windows from fogging.

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

Hydroplaning:

- Hydroplaning results when water on the road is deeper than the tire tread, reducing friction and resulting in loss of control.
- When you see deep water on the road, reflections on pavement, or the car ahead leaves no tracks, hydroplaning is possible.
- 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 glare and reduced visibility.
- Slow down until your speed matches your ability to stop within the distance you can see, even if it means slowing to a crawl.

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

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

Warn against overconfidence and urge caution

- After becoming proficient in basic driving skills, teens can become overconfident and begin to drive faster, follow other cars more closely, brake abruptly, etc. Remind your teen to stay three or more seconds back from other vehicles.

More to master:

Sharing the road



Trucks: In crashes involving large trucks, the occupants of a car – usually the driver – sustain 78 percent of fatalities. Be extra cautious when driving around large trucks and buses and be aware of their limitations. Here are a few tips to prevent a crash and minimize injuries and fatalities if one does occur:

- **Give enough room when pulling in front of large trucks.** Trucks and buses take longer to stop than cars. When passing, look for the full front of the truck in your rearview mirror before pulling in front, and avoid braking situations.
- **Avoid their blind spots.** Blind spots around the front, back and sides of large trucks make it difficult for the driver to see a car. Avoid these. If you can't see the truck driver in the truck's mirror, the truck driver can't see you.
- **Be careful of trucks making wide right turns.** If you try to get between the truck and the curb, you'll be caught in a "squeeze" crash. Truck drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left in order to safely negotiate a right turn. They can't see cars directly behind or beside them. So pay attention to truck signals, and give them lots of room to maneuver.

Work zones: It's important to be alert, slow down and allow others to merge.

- **Stay alert:** Work zones are busy. Construction vehicles and workers are always moving. Be alert, and stay on the safe path that is designated.
- **Take your cues from trucks:** Work zones often pop up suddenly. Not paying attention to the signs could result in a serious crash. Since trucks

have a height advantage and can see ahead of traffic, their brake light activity provides a good signal of a slow-down or work zone ahead. .

- **Merge gently:** For a smooth passage through work zones, allow others to merge in front of you. Be especially considerate to trucks. They require more space and are less maneuverable.

Motorcycles are smaller and more difficult to see, making it more difficult to judge their speed and distance. Approximately half of all motorcycle crashes involve another motor vehicle, and nearly 40 percent are caused by another vehicle turning left in front of them. Here are some basic rules to follow:

- **Allow the motorcyclist a full lane width.** It may seem as though there is enough room in the lane, but remember the motorcycle needs the room to maneuver. Do not share the lane.
- **Always signal** before changing lanes or merging, this allows motorcyclists to anticipate traffic and find a safe lane position.
- **Always make a visual check of mirrors and blind spots** before changing lanes and at intersections. Motorcyclists are often hidden in a blind spot and can be missed in a quick look due to their smaller size.
- **Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle** – motorcycle signals don't turn off automatically like in cars and riders sometimes forget.
- **Allow more following distance,** at least four seconds behind a motorcycle. Road conditions which are minor annoyances to cars pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Motorcyclists may change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings and grooved pavement. This gives the rider time to maneuver and stop in an emergency.

When you hear sirens and see flashing lights, move quickly and safely out of the way

- **Turn off the radio, check the traffic around you and slow down.**
- **If traffic allows, signal, and then pull to the right, clear of an intersection, and stop. Remain there until the emergency vehicle has passed.**

Learning never stops:

Continuing education



Once your teen has a driver license, continue teaching and building their skills.

- **Spend as much time as possible driving with your teen.**
- **Drive with your teen in a wide variety of driving circumstances, roads and conditions**, such as quiet neighborhood streets, multi-lane roads and highways and at different times of the day, in poor weather and with varying levels of traffic.
- **Focus on “higher level” learning**, including scanning ahead, recognizing hazards and learning to anticipate the behavior of other drivers.
- **Stay involved.** Ensure your teen is thinking intelligently and making the right decisions. Don't step back; there's still a lot to learn, and you should both stay in the learning/teaching mode.
- **Even the best new drivers make mistakes.** Mistakes are great teachable moments for “higher order” instructions. 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.
- **Shifting to a more advanced focus is essential.** Talk about specific hazard areas, possible areas of conflict and blind spots where trouble may hide. Teens tend not to be as good at anticipating these trouble areas. Have your

teen describe the blind spots and areas of conflict they see, so you know that they are thinking, anticipating and driving intelligently.

Keep learning together

- **Even after your teen is licensed, use your time driving together to instill good judgment and smart decision making.**
- **Stress the importance of anticipating and reacting to hazards.**

Parent-teen driving contract

I will obey all driving laws. I will observe and abide by posted speed limits. I will obey all rules established by my parents and will drive the car only with their permission. If I break the rules, I will forfeit the car keys with no argument or debate. Refusal to do so will result in the loss of my driving privileges.

1. I will not drive after using or ride with anyone who has used any “substance” including medications that may impair driving abilities.

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

2. I will wear my seatbelt at all times and insist that all passengers wear theirs.

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

3. Under no circumstances will I use a cell phone or any other electronic device unless safely stopped on the side of the road.

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

4. I will respect all weather and road conditions, slowing down as needed for safety.

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

5. If I'm involved in a crash, no matter how minor, I will not leave the scene without the permission of police officers and my parents.

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

6. I will inform my parents about any tickets, crashes and encounters with police (including warnings).

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

7. I will not have any passengers or allow anyone to drive the car without specific permission.

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

8. All trips will be to agreed upon locations discussed beforehand. I will not make any unscheduled stops, side trips or changes without parental contact.

Breaking this rule results in _____ days/months of driving privilege loss.

We agree to review (and possibly change) this agreement on _____ (date) or earlier if needed.

Signatures:

New driver _____ (date) _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____ (date) _____

We agree and understand that situations may arise that may conflict with portions of this contract; they will be discussed as needed.

Austin Wierschke,
LG U.S. National Texting Champion
Rhineland, WI



I can text anywhere but I never text and drive.

Two-time LG U.S. National Texting Champion Austin Wierschke of Rhineland, Wisconsin can text ANYWHERE; skiing, surfing, or basejumping! But the one place Austin NEVER texts is while driving. Texting while driving is illegal in Wisconsin. So, join Austin in putting your phone away when you get behind the wheel. Pay Attention or Pay the Price.



**DRIVE NOW
TEXT LATER**

ZeroInWisconsin.gov

Start safe. Stay safe.



Help teen drivers learn safe driving habits that will help keep them safe for the rest of their lives.

- **Have your teen turn off his or her cell phone while driving.**
- **Restrict passengers.** Teenage passengers riding in a vehicle with a beginning driver can distract the driver and encourage greater risk-taking.
- **Set an example.** When you're driving, use safe practices like traveling at posted limits, not following other cars too closely, and obeying traffic lights and signs. Not only can this have a positive effect on your child, it makes you a safer driver, too.

West Bend is proud to be a sponsor of *The Parent's Supervised Driving Program* in Wisconsin, and to support all efforts to keep teen drivers safe.

For more information about West Bend's Young Drivers Program, including a short film by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and West Bend's Beginning Teen Drivers Guide, visit thesilverlining.com.

