

Print Student Name: _____

DRIVER EDUCATION PARENT LETTER

FROM BASIC TO COMPLEX

Parents should not slam the novice driver with everything at once. Simple maneuvers in the beginning are the best. Have your student take right and left turns in the neighborhood. This involves mirror checking, traffic checking, braking, acceleration, signaling, steering and recovery and lane positioning. This is a great start.

KEEP THE LESSON TIME SHORT

In the beginning, keep the time short. About 25-30 minutes is plenty for your student and yourself. This will keep it fresh for both parent and teen. Until the teen gets used to their parent in a coaching roll repetition is the key to success and not necessarily the length of time in the vehicle.

PRACTICING HINTS

Parents need to communicate early and clearly, giving directions in advance of the maneuver will save them a lot of touchy last minute and potentially dangerous problems. Some beginners may give the impression of being confident and in control but also may be unprepared to deal with any sudden change in conditions. Do not be fooled by this and never assume the teen knows what to do in each and every situation that will be encountered.

WHEN THEY MAKE A DRIVING ERROR

The novice driver is too busy concentrating on just driving the car to understand what a parent is trying to say about any driving error. Depending on the traffic situation and the error, consider stopping and discussing, maybe even illustrate what the problem was while the mistake is still fresh in their memory. Next, go back to either the same spot or something very similar and repeat the maneuver correctly. That is the best way for a teen to retain this information.

MAKE AN HONEST ATTEMPT TO BE POSITIVE

When the teen makes an error, they will not react well to a parent getting negative or yelling at them. If their experience with a parent is negative, they will not even want to drive with their parent and that is not the desired objective. They should look forward to driving! Teenagers respond well to encouragement. This practice time should be a cooperative project that both are working on to achieve. Remember: Teens will make mistakes – but also they will get better. Success breeds success. The more successful a teen feels, the quicker he/she will improve.

HAVE STUDENTS START THINKING OF LOGGING 100 HOURS, not only the 50 required on a Level 1 License – Allow your student to drive every opportunity available.

MORE EXPERIENCE = BETTER CHANCE TO BECOME A SAFE DRIVER !!!!!

____ This letter has been reviewed by both of us

____ The HHS Driver Education webpage has been accessed by both of us

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

STUDENT DRIVER'S SIGNATURE