

Suggestions for Parent/Mentors

-or-

How To Do More Than Just Survive Driving With My Child

The average American driver drives an hour a day. In order for your children to gain the experience needed to develop safe driving habits and become experienced drivers, they must spend lots of time behind the wheel under the supervision of an experienced driver. As challenging as providing this time and instruction can be, (especially for your own children) *there is no substitute for this essential guided practice*. This is why New York State mandates that a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving be completed (among other requirements) before a child under age 18 can sign up for his or her Road Test. While this may sound like a lot, remember that the average driver drives over 350 hours a year, year after year, after year. That's a lot of experience. Here are some suggestions on how to get the most out of this critical time.

1. Be a Good Role Model
2. Be Relaxed and Keep Your Voice Calm
3. Be Supportive and Positive
4. Be Patient, but Alert at All Times
5. For the First Sessions, Start in an Empty Parking Lot
6. Give Clear Directions
 - ✚ Give Directions for Turns Well in Advance
 - ✚ First Direct Where the Action is to Take Place, then Describe the Action to Take:
{“at the second intersection, make a right”}
 - ✚ Use Language that Avoids Confusion:
{when responding to a question say: “that’s correct” instead of “right”}
7. Select *and Pre-Drive* Areas Appropriate to the New Driver’s Ability
8. Make Sure the New Driver Understands the Objectives of Each Lesson Before you Begin
9. Properly Demonstrate Maneuvers when Needed
10. Give Precise and Immediate Feedback
11. If a Mistake is Made, Repeat the Maneuver while Talking the Driver through the Process
Step by Step
12. Encourage *Commentary Driving* in which the New Driver Verbally Describes what s/he Sees that may Affect the Path of Travel and the Specific Actions that s/he Takes to Avoid or to Deal with the Potential Situations s/he must React To