

Giving Teens the Keys

TOYOTA
TEEN DRIVER



Parent Guide



TOYOTA

Making a Difference

MADD

Keys to Keeping Teens Safe

How did you feel the first time you put the key in the ignition? Remember the thrill and the feeling of invincibility you had the first time you drove? Unfortunately, these feelings may overshadow a realistic perception of what could happen while driving.

Teen drivers are not always prepared, and they may be dealing with more distractions than you dealt with when you were learning to drive. Also, they may not be fully aware of how cars function. This lack of experience may lead them down a dangerous road: **car crashes are the #1 cause of death for teens.** You can help your teen learn to drive safely.



When you're driving with your teen, explain choices you're making, like not turning left on a yellow light. Let your teen know if a certain neighbor always backs out of his driveway without looking. Explain why drivers should never exceed the speed limit (speeding is a leading cause of teen

accidents!), and tell your teen when to slow down, and why, especially on turns. Decreasing speed on turns allows drivers to maintain more steering control.

This booklet includes tips on how to talk with teens effectively about driving, as well as a contract for parents and teens to complete and sign. If your teen abides by the rules in the contract, how will you reward him or her? Be specific, and use positive reinforcement whenever possible.

Tips for Coaching Your Teens

- *Share your driving experience—and experiences!*
- *Tell your teens about trouble spots in your local area.*
- *Explain the importance of knowing and following local driving laws.*
- *Talk to your teens about who will pay for what.*
- *Complete and sign the driving contract included in this booklet with your teens.*
- *Decide when you will check to see if contract rules are being followed, and what will happen as a result.*

Creating a Contract

A safe driving contract is provided for you in the center of this booklet. Fill it out in collaboration with your teen, and add in rules and agreements that are important to you. Consider making a copy of the contract for each person who signs it.

Talk to your teen about this easy way to remember the contract's foundation; these elements are crucial to make the contract effective:

T Truth

R Respect

U Understanding

S Sincerity

T Truth

Remember, trust is a key contract ingredient—and trust begins and ends with TRUTH!

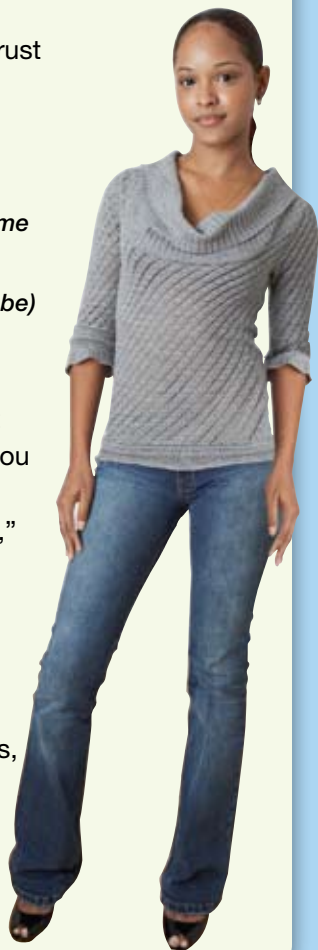
You may wish to add these things to your contract (be sure to put your agreements in writing):

- *maximum traveling distance allowed at any one time*
- *food and drinks in the car*
- *music (if it's allowed, and what the volume should be)*
- *what your teen should do if he or she doesn't feel comfortable driving home*

Did you know that many states set curfews and limit the number of passengers for teen drivers? Before you complete your contract, review your local laws at www.aaapublicaffairs.com. Click on "Teen Drivers," then "State GDL Laws."

Contract Check-ins

Decide how often you'll check in with your teen to talk about how he or she is doing. Think about how you'll positively reinforce good driving behaviors, and what will happen if your teen breaks the rules. Discuss this as you negotiate the terms of the contract so your teen will know what to expect in a few days, weeks, or months.



Contract

The Agreement:

As of _____, I _____
(today's date) (teen's name)

am aware of my privileges and responsibilities as a licensed driver in this state. As a result, I will use my Toyota Teen Driver learning experience and my personal abilities to become a safer, more defensive driver. Furthermore, I agree to all of the following conditions:

- I will always wear a seatbelt, and insist that any passengers in my vehicle do likewise. If I violate this condition, I understand that my driving privileges may be revoked for a period of _____.
- I will never drink or use drugs and then drive a vehicle; I will also never ride in a vehicle being driven by someone who is impaired by alcohol or drugs. If I violate this condition, I understand that my driving privileges may be revoked for a period of _____.
- I will obey ALL traffic laws, including state-mandated curfews and passenger limitations.
- I will maintain a clean driving record, with no traffic violations or crashes; I further understand violations may result in my parents revoking my driving privileges for a period of _____.
- I agree to pay for all tickets and violations I incur.
- I will have no more than _____ passengers at any one time, unless specifically approved by my parent/guardian.
- I agree to drive only between the hours of _____ and _____, unless returning from work- or school-related activities, or with the specific permission of my parent/guardian.
- I will call and check in _____.
- I will not use a cell phone while driving.

As of _____, I _____
(today's date) (parent/guardian's name)

am aware of my responsibilities as the parent/guardian of a licensed teenage driver in this state. As a result, I will agree to be an effective coach and counselor for my teen driver, and participate actively in his/her growth as a safe and defensive driver. Furthermore, I agree to all of the following conditions:

- I will supervise the learning and development of my son/daughter as a safe, defensive driver.
- I will require that my teenager, _____, obey all of the conditions listed in this contract.
- I will exercise patience, care, and understanding in my duty as the responsible parent/guardian of a teenage driver.
- I will be a good role model for my teenager.

Add your personal agreements here:

SIGNED:

Parent/Guardian Date

Teen Date

Tips and Tidbits

Driving Conditions

As an experienced driver, you know how to adapt to changing road conditions. But does your teen? Talk to your son or daughter about what to do in:

- rain
- fog
- snow
- sleet
- high winds

Also, even though you probably easily transition from day to night driving, teens don't have the benefit of experience. Talk to your teen about driving:

- into a setting sun
- during dusk
- at night

Another thing to consider is the car your teen will be driving, and what types of safety features it has. It's best for teens to drive mid-size to standard-size cars, preferably with up-to-date safety features. And if at all possible, have your teen drive only one car while he or she is learning. That way, your teen will become familiar with the car, and won't have to adjust to too many new things at once.

Talk to your teen about things like anti-lock brakes (ABS), airbags, and seatbelts. Also, if the car your teen is driving behaves in a particular way, tell him or her about it.

Need help making sense of some of your car's safety features? You're not alone. Check out your owner's manual or the vehicle manufacturer's website. Or, contact your local car dealer for more information.

The Costs of Driving

You know how much it costs to drive. But does your teen? Explain all of the costs involved, including:

- fuel
- maintenance
- insurance premiums
- repairs
- car payments

Then, determine who will pay for what.

NEARLY 5,000
U.S. TEENS
DIED IN CRASHES
IN 2007!

Leading by Example

Check your driving habits. Your teen is watching, and may do what you do.

- Don't use a cell phone while driving.
- Don't eat or drink behind the wheel.
- Don't speed.
- Stay focused and don't drive impaired.
- Come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Set clear boundaries about acceptable behavior for passengers.

Talking to Your Teen about Driving

- When you're setting the ground rules, explain that the rules you set are based on your desire to keep your teen safe. Then, take it a step further. Listen to your teen, and really respond to what he or she says. The best driving rules are the ones that are created through parent-and-teen collaboration.
- Remember to coach ("Good job! Next time, maybe think about trying this...") and be your teen's biggest supporter. Keep your favorite role model in mind, and let that person influence how you act and react to your teen. If it's hard for you to keep your cool in the car, consider asking another adult to help guide your teen to drive safely.
- Remember that if teens tune out, they won't hear what's being said. Talk to your teen driver-to-driver. This is all very new to your teen, but you have years of experience. Share it.
- Be honest about your past driving mistakes! If your teen knows that you're not perfect, he or she will be much more likely to believe that you understand his or her challenges behind the wheel. And if your teen thinks you understand, he or she will be more likely to listen to your suggestions.
- Positively reinforce good behavior whenever possible. You might be surprised how far a small compliment can go. In addition, when your teen abides by the rules, consider rewarding him or her by extending privileges, such as curfew or time allowed behind the wheel.



Get on Board

Toyota Driving Expectations—Torrance, CA

Toyota will be offering a **FREE** safe driving course for teens and their parents coming soon to your area.

Toyota Driving Expectations was created to help teens better understand the responsibilities that come with driving. This live event provides hands-on defensive driving guidance to help you keep your teen safe. To find out more about the course that could save your teen's life, check out **www.toyotadrivingexpectations.com**!

Space is limited. Register today!



Look to these resources as you coach your teen to drive safely:

<http://teendriver.nsc.org>

—National Safety Council: *Teen Driver*

[Ready or Not, Here Comes Life](#)

—by *Mel Levine*

[WHY Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen](#)

—by *David Walsh and Nat Bennett*

[How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk](#)

—by *Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish*

[Positive Discipline for Teenagers: Empowering Your Teen and Yourself Through Kind and Firm Parenting](#)

—by *Jane Nelsen and Lynn Lott*