

# Mount Vernon Drivers Education LLC

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Dear Driver Education Parents,

Learning and developing driving skills is a complex task. It is important for your teenager to get as much driving experience as possible while enrolled in driver education. For this reason, we are asking you to provide practice driving sessions for your student.

Please understand that home driving practice is not intended to be a substitute for class driving sessions. However, home practice is recommended for several reasons.

The amount of time that a student is enrolled in driver education is minimal considering the complexity of the driving task. Students must learn the basic skills of a lifetime task in driver education.

A considerable amount of in-class instruction time is necessary for students to develop the fundamental driving skills. When home practice is provided, driver education instructors can go beyond the fundamental skills.

The following information is designed to help you provide useful and enjoyable practice sessions for your teenager while he or she is enrolled in driver education. A performance check list that can be used as a practice guide is included.

You, as a parent, are not expected to replace the driver education instructor. Instead, during home practice sessions, you should concentrate on supervising your teenager while he or she practices driving skills learned in class. Please do not allow your teenager to practice skills that beyond his or her ability.

If you have any questions, feel free to telephone or arrange a conference. Thank you for your interest and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Gearhart

P.S. Helping your son or daughter develop driving skills will be easier and more enjoyable through the use of the Parent Involvement Guide attached. These pages are designed to answer some questions you may have about home driving practice for students enrolled in driver education.

Please sign this Parent Involvement Receipt and have your son or daughter also sign and return just this acknowledgement to me. Your participation in our driver education program is welcomed and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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## PARENT INVOLVMENT RECEIPT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## Parent Involvement Guide

## Safeguarding the Driving Situation

Although many parents are wary of teaching their children how to drive, home practice sessions can improve a student's driving skill.

There are several precautions that you can take to prevent problems during home practice sessions. Become familiar with these guidelines before accompanying your son or daughter on a practice drive.

1. During the first few practice sessions, it is best to have your teenager drive at a low speed.
2. Avoid nighttime practice sessions until your student driver has gained skill in daytime driving. Because night driving is much different from driving during the day, it is wise to include several nighttime practice sessions.
3. Avoid scheduling practice sessions during the morning or evening rush hour.
4. Look and think well ahead of your beginning driver. Try to anticipate any problems that may be encountered.
5. Use the right side mirror to keep track of traffic conditions to the rear.
6. Driver education vehicles have dual braking controls as a safeguard. Your dual control is your teenager's ability to stop the car quickly and dependably.

If an emergency situation develops while your son or daughter is driving, you may need to take one of the following actions:

- Take steering control.
- Shift to NEUTRAL to cut off power to the wheel.

### Teaching Tips

As mentioned earlier, you, as a parent, are not expected to replace the driver education instructor during practice driving sessions with your son or daughter. Instead, you should supervise your teenager while he or she practices driving skills learned in class.

The following teaching tips are provided to assure you and your student driver of a safe and rewarding practice experience.

1. Before beginning your first home practice session, be sure that your student driver can identify and operate the instruments and controls in your car. They may differ from those in the driver education vehicle.
2. Decide on a practice area before leaving home. Choose a quiet park or residential area for the first few sessions. It is never a good idea to allow a beginner to drive in traffic until he or she can control the vehicle with confidence. You may want to drive to the practice area instead of allowing your teenager to drive through traffic to get there.

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3. Before leaving home for a practice session, be sure that your student driver knows the destination and what will be practiced.
4. Choose one driving skill to concentrate on each session. Also, it is a good idea to review skills from previous practice periods during each session.
5. While your teenager is driving, give directions clearly and quietly and well in advance of the situation.
6. If your teenager is having difficulty with a particular driving skill, it may help to demonstrate the skill.
7. Expect your teenager to make mistakes during driving sessions. Mistakes are a natural part of learning.

When your teenager makes a driving error, correct him or her gently. He or she probably will feel pressure over making a mistake even if you make no comment. Courtesy and honesty are required if your teenager is to benefit from a practice session.

8. Be patient with your student. Usually, it will take several practice attempts for a beginning driver to learn a skill.
9. Reward success with praise. If your teenager shows improvement, say so. If a driving situation is handled with skill, say so. One of the greatest rewards you can give a student driver is your approval.

### Driving Judgment

You can help your son or daughter develop judgment and decision-making skills while you are driving by discussing various driving situations. Following are several sample situations.

1. When you are approaching an intersection, ask whether the intersection is controlled or uncontrolled.
2. When stopped at a stop sign, ask your teenager to tell you when it is safe to continue through the intersection. If you are turning at the intersection, ask the driver to choose a safe gap for turning.
3. When you must wait for oncoming traffic before turning left, ask you student driver to select a safe gap for turning.
4. When you are approaching a traffic light, ask whether or not the light will change to yellow by the time you reach the intersection.
5. When you are approaching an uncontrolled intersection, ask your driver to scan for cars and decide whether or not you should stop.
6. When looking for a parking space, ask your beginning driver to tell you when it is safe o pull into traffic.
7. When you are parking at the curb, ask your beginning driver to tell you when it is safe o pull into traffic.

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8. When following another car in traffic, ask your student driver whether you should pass the car ahead or remain in your position.
9. When you are about to meet an oncoming car on a narrow street, ask your teenager whether you should stop or let the other car pass or proceed without stopping.
10. When entering a highway, ask your beginning driver to tell you when it is safe to merge into the through traffic lane.

### Teaching Tips

- Try to keep practice sessions short. Students learn more from shorter, more frequent lessons.
- Take a break or end the lesson when your driver becomes tired or when his or her skills begins to deteriorate. Generally, a student will not improve when tired.
- Setting a good example while you are driving is one of the best teaching methods that you can follow. It is likely that your teenager will imitate your driving style.