



Safe Driving Tips

Be a Good Role Model

Teenagers often follow what you do more than what you say. Children tend to emulate their parents' behaviors, a tendency that continues into adulthood. This underscores the significance of instilling positive habits early on. This holds true, particularly when it comes to operating a vehicle. Your actions serve as a powerful influence on how your teenager approaches driving.

Being a better role model for teenage drivers begins with your approach to driving safety. Reflect on the following questions:

- Are you emotionally ready to drive every time you get behind the wheel? Do you drive when you are emotionally distressed (e.g. angry, distraught, etc.) or do you make sure you have calmed yourself down before you start the vehicle – even if it makes you a little late to your destination?
- Are you physically ready to drive every time you get behind the wheel? Do you drive when you are excessively fatigued?
- Do you drink and drive? Do you ride with drivers who do?
- Do you always wear your safety belt? Do you insist all your passengers wear their safety belts? Being a good role model continues with your actions in the vehicle:
 - Are you calm, attentive and confident when you drive?
 - Are you respectful of other drivers even when they are in the wrong?
 - Do you maintain a safe speed in all conditions?
 - Do you tailgate, or do you leave the proper following distance (3-5 seconds) between you and the vehicle in front of you?
 - Do you avoid distractions? Do you text, use your cell phone, eat, or put on makeup while driving?
- Are you an aggressive driver? Do you cut others off? Do you race through traffic?

Your teenager is observing your actions closely. How you handle these situations significantly influences their driving behavior. By exemplifying responsible behavior, you contribute to helping your teen become an Intelligent Driver. Be a positive role model by practicing safe driving yourself.

Drive Safely!

