

# Understand the Road to Safe Driving



<i>Phases for Learning to Drive</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>						
	<i>GDL Phase</i>	<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Skill</i>	<i>Performance</i>	<i>Adaptability</i>	<i>Distractions</i>	<i>Supervised Practice</i>
<b>Novice (Beginner)</b>	Driver's Education & supervised practice	Shows weak knowledge retrieval related to safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows weak driving skills in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows very inconsistent driver performance in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Must use full concentration to safely navigate roadways & interact with other roadway users	Is easily distracted by both internal & external distractions	Practice is the only way to eventually gain mastery. It takes years of regular driving to become a competent driver.  Meanwhile, novices <b>MUST</b> have regular supervised practice in order to assess progress toward safe driving & have any mistakes corrected before they become unsafe habits.
<b>Nearing Proficient (Advanced Beginner)</b>	Supervised practice & restricted independent driving	Shows improved knowledge retrieval related to safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows improved driving skills in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows inconsistent driver performance in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Uses conscious effort to safely navigate roadways & interact with other roadway users	Is easily distracted by both internal & external distractions	Practice is the only way to eventually gain mastery. It takes years of regular driving to become a competent driver.  Meanwhile, supervised practice is necessary in order to assess progress toward safe driving & have any mistakes corrected before they become unsafe habits.
<b>Proficient (Nearing competent)</b>	Restricted independent driving & full privilege license	Shows adequate knowledge retrieval related to safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows adequate driving skills in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows more consistent driver performance in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Uses conscious effort to safely navigate roadways & interact with other roadway users	Can be distracted by both internal & external distractions	Practice is the only way to eventually gain mastery. It takes years of regular driving to become a competent driver.  Periodically "spot check" to make sure that safe driving behaviors are maintained & unsafe driving behaviors are extinguished.
<b>Competent</b>	Full privilege license	Shows strong knowledge retrieval related to safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows strong driving skills in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Shows consistent driver performance in safely navigating roadways & interacting with other roadway users	Behaviors to safely navigate roadways & interact with other roadway users are automatic	Less likely to be distracted by both internal & external distractions	Practice is the only way to eventually gain mastery. It takes years of regular driving to become a competent driver.  Periodically "spot check" to make sure that safe driving behaviors are maintained & unsafe driving behaviors are extinguished.



# Parent-Teen Homework Assignments to Increase Driver Safety

## List of Homework Assignments & Comments About Them

Homework Assignments	Montana parents said...	Driver Ed instructors said...
<p><b>#1 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS &amp; SAFETY EQUIPMENT</b></p> <p>1.1 Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Tasks.            1.2 Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Adjustments.            1.3 Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Controls.            1.4 Family Exercise: Rapid Fire Commands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "I got into the emergency planning part. Good to have before it's needed."</li> <li>♦ "Good, helpful, simple."</li> <li>♦ "I forgot how automatically I do things. Explaining is more difficult than doing"</li> <li>♦ "All of these things are important for teaching her to be a safe and competent driver."</li> <li>♦ "Fun + interesting."</li> <li>♦ "After the exercise my son realized how important it was to know where everything was."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "It creates good habits."</li> <li>♦ "Student/parent collaboration is evident by the comments provided from parents."</li> <li>♦ "[Parent] comments indicated it was a good opportunity to see what their student knew."</li> <li>♦ "All students/parents in my 2009 summer class completed [it]."</li> <li>♦ "Parents liked this activity."</li> <li>♦ "Fun learning, positive interactions."</li> </ul>
<p><b>#2 TRAFFIC LAWS &amp; COURTEOUS DRIVING</b></p> <p>2.1 Family Exercise: Do You Know Your Signs?            2.2 Driving Activity: Signs.            2.3 Family Discussion: Traffic Laws.            2.4 Family Discussion: Courteous Driving.            2.5 Driving Activity: Driver Communication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Good activities that brought out good questions."</li> <li>♦ "This was a good activity for new and old drivers alike."</li> <li>♦ "Both parents participated &amp; had fun."</li> <li>♦ "[This] was easy to do on [the] way to school."</li> <li>♦ "Good opportunity to discuss safe driving."</li> <li>♦ "Family bonding w/ teenager [is] always a plus."</li> <li>♦ "Brought a greater knowledge of courteous driving."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Parents/teens enjoyed this."</li> <li>♦ "Good discussion leads."</li> <li>♦ "It should help new drivers a lot."</li> <li>♦ "Great activity for kids &amp; parents."</li> <li>♦ "Parents were able to easily follow the lesson."</li> <li>♦ "Some students knew their signs better than their parents!"</li> </ul>
<p><b>#3 VISION, BALANCE, &amp; JUDGMENT</b></p> <p>3.1 Family Discussion: Vision, Balance, &amp; Judgment.            3.2 Family Exercise: Driving Pictures.            3.3 Driving Activity: Curves, Hillcrests, &amp; Intersections.            3.4 Driving Activity: Speed Control &amp; Lane Position.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Great learning tool!"</li> <li>♦ "Good things to check for and be aware of not only for kids but parents as well."</li> <li>♦ "These were a bit more difficult, but very helpful!"</li> <li>♦ "Good skill building."</li> <li>♦ "Helped show the importance of always watching around you for hazards."</li> <li>♦ "Great way for me to measure his readiness to drive."</li> <li>♦ "We continue to do these exercises each time we drive."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Great info."</li> <li>♦ "Nice reminders for parents."</li> <li>♦ "Good examples."</li> <li>♦ "Easily understood by parents/teens."</li> <li>♦ "Easily performed by student/parent."</li> <li>♦ "Great activity, very helpful."</li> </ul>
<p><b>#4 ADVERSE DRIVING CONDITIONS</b></p> <p>4.1 Family Discussion: Adverse Driving Conditions.            4.2 Family Exercise: Driving Pictures.            4.3 Family Exercise: Vehicle Safety Kits.            4.4 Driving Activity: Driving Conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Important to safe driving."</li> <li>♦ "Provides a good focus."</li> <li>♦ "I think all these activities are great. We've really enjoyed the conversations."</li> <li>♦ "Good practical learning."</li> <li>♦ "Made my son more aware of his town and way around."</li> <li>♦ "I would have felt more prepared as a teenage driver if this had been available to me."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "This should make parents aware of teen experience and lack of it."</li> <li>♦ "Easily understood."</li> <li>♦ "Positive feedback [from families]."</li> <li>♦ "Fun, clear."</li> <li>♦ "Good activity."</li> <li>♦ "Specific responsibilities clear."</li> </ul>
<p><b>#5 CONTINUED SAFE DRIVING &amp; SUPERVISED PRACTICE</b></p> <p>5.1 Family Discussion: Unsafe Driving.            5.2 Family Exercise: Parent-Teen Agreement for Safe Driving Expectations.            5.3 Family Exercise: Keep Track of Driver Progress: First Assessment.            5.4 Family Exercise: Schedule for Supervised Driving.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "All this helps kids + parents stay on track."</li> <li>♦ "Makes driving together not rushed &amp; less stressful."</li> <li>♦ "Good way to track his improvement."</li> <li>♦ "Makes my expectations clear."</li> <li>♦ "Takes time but worth it."</li> <li>♦ "Nice way to set-up rules for driving - instead of just letting them drive w/ no rules or consequences."</li> <li>♦ "Good to see progress &amp; to see where they need to go."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Good review."</li> <li>♦ "Those parents that actually worked through this felt it was very relevant."</li> <li>♦ "Good discussion points listed."</li> <li>♦ "General [family] comments indicated that parents were discussing this information and how it tied back to the previous four lessons."</li> <li>♦ "Good parent information."</li> <li>♦ "The tie-in to GDL and how to make this step work appeared to be appreciated by parents."</li> </ul>

**Parents' time is ALWAYS limited, but it's only a 5-week commitment and the effects could last a lifetime!**