

SUGGESTIONS TO HELP PRACTICE DRIVING

SKILLS AND STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

- You can practice driving with permission in an open area (parking lots, etc.) or on your private property.
- Remember that on-street driving requires the student have a permit and a licensed driver at least 21 years of age sitting in the front seat.
- Use “commentary driving” where son/daughter verbalizes what they observe and actions they should take as they drive.
- You can quiz your son/daughter when you drive to make sure they are observing and in return, have them quiz you. Perhaps you can make it a contest. The winner may win a treat at the DQ!
- Sit down with you son/daughter one on one, and discuss what your expectations are and how serious driving is. Explain how it will affect your family’s insurance and know what type of friends they will associate with. Emphasize driving is a **PRIVILEGE**, **NOT** a right, and privileges can be taken away. They will be held accountable for their behavior. This may be a good opportunity to discuss consequences for poor behavior.
- When you (the parent) drive, you need to be a good role model for you son/daughter. It is amazing how they will imitate your driving behavior --- good and bad habits. Try to be positive and responsible as your child goes through this process.

TIPS AND TECHNIQUES WHEN OBSERVING YOUR SON/DAUGHTER’S DRIVING

COMPLETE STOPS

After you feel the momentum of a small jerk backward, count to two (to pause for a complete stop) and then proceed.

OBSERVATION and then proceed: Your general observation should be completed before you completely stop. Observation at the intersection is to look first to your left, center, right and back to your left. Look first for pedestrians and then cars. If there is an obstruction, then move (creep) forward past the sign to recheck for traffic.

INTERSECTIONS

“Uncontrolled” intersections (no signs or light present): As you approach, “cover” the brake and check for traffic.

“Controlled” intersections (includes STOP and YIELD signs or lights):

1. Stop behind the stop bar at intersections (yield to pedestrians)
2. Come to a complete stop as previously mentions.
3. If you need to creep into the crosswalk in order to gain greater visibility, do so only after pedestrians have cleared your lane.
4. Stop BEFORE the sidewalk when emerging from an alley or driveway.

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LANE CHANGE PROCEDURES: S – S – M – O – G

Search and scan your surroundings

Signal your intentions

Mirrors, check them.

Over the shoulder blind spot, check. (turn your head)

Go, if the lane is open.

TURN

The law states that one must signal the intention 100 feet before the turn. We recommend ½ block before the turn. Be sure to make appropriate lane changes before turning. Turns can be made from a complete stop (stop sign) or from a non-stop situation (no stop signs or light).

RIGHT TURNS

1. Always try to turn from the parking lane.
2. Lane change into the parking lane so you're within 3 feet from the curb. Not even a bicycle should fit between your car and the curb.
3. Slow down (brake) as you approach the intersection to roughly 8 mph into the first half of the turn and then accelerate as needed to complete the second half of the turn.
4. When the front bumper is even with where the curb bends, begin turning the steering wheel about ½ turn using hand-over-hand.
5. Finish your turn into the first lane of traffic, nearest the curb.
6. A typical problem with right turns may be speed that is too fast or too slow, cutting the corner (jumping the curb on the right with your back right tire) and or making too wide of a turn and entering traffic over the center line.

LEFT TURNS

1. If needed, lane changes to the nearest legal lane closest to the center line as you approach the intersection.
2. As you approach the intersection, reduce your speed to roughly 10 mph for your turn.
3. Allow yourself to enter the intersection and begin your turning action with the steering wheel roughly ½ way into the intersection.
4. A typical problem with left turns may be speed that is too fast or too slow, and entering the new street in the wrong lane on a two way street, and or turning too wide when entering your new street.

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PARKING

Remember to signal your intentions and check your blind spot. A good rule is to **TURN YOUR HEAD BEFORE YOU TURN THE WHEEL.**

CURB PARKING PROCEDURE

1. Use lane changing procedures when entering or leaving the curb. SSMOG (Search/Scan, Signal, Mirrors, Over the Shoulder, and Go when clear).
2. Drift toward the curb. When you are approximately 2 feet from the curb, begin straightening your steering wheel. Use reference points for your position and distance from the curb. The right outside mirror may help as well.
3. Stop. Set the parking brake. A good park is within 8 inches of the curb.
4. Remember when you leave the vehicle or approach to enter the vehicle (when getting back in the car), to face traffic for safety.
5. As you leave: release the parking brake, select "D", SSMOG and move into the driving lane.

HILL PARKING PROCEDURE

Rule: Always turn your wheel to the right except "up-hill-with-a-curb". If you become confused try this verse: **"Up-Up-and-Away" when a curb is present.**

1. Up-hill/curb: Move to within 6-8 inches from the curb and stop. Shift the transmission into neutral, turn the steering wheel hard left (up-up-and-away), and allow the car to roll back gently until the front right tire rests gently touching the curb. Put the car in "park" and set the emergency (park) brake.
2. Down-hill/curb: Move to within 6-8 inches from the curb and stop. Put the car in "park", turn the steering wheel hard right, and set the emergency (park) brake.
3. When leaving any park position, remember to release the emergency (parking) brake, select the correct gear (drive) and use the **SSMOG** technique. (Search/Scan, Signal, Mirrors, Over the shoulder blind spot check, and Go if it is clear).

ANGLE OR 45 DEGREE PARKING

As you approach your parking spot signal, and stay about 1 car's width from the parking space you are going to park in, and when you can look down the first stall line or the entire side of the car begin turning your steering wheel hard right and then straighten your wheels as you stop in a centered within your parking space and make it possible for all passengers to be able to open car doors and leave without any damage to vehicles.

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PARALLEL PARKING

1. Signal as you approach your parking space.
2. The right side of your car should be about 3 feet away from the parked car on your right.
3. Stop when your back bumper is even or almost even with the parked car's rear bumper.
4. Change gears to reverse and turn your steering wheel hard right.
5. When the center pillar post (a reference point in the middle of your car) between the front and rear window gets even with the back bumper of the parked car, straighten your front tires by turning the steering wheels approximately 1 ½ turns to the left. You are then at center steer and your car is at 45 degrees to the curb.
6. Continue backing at center steer until the front of your bumper is even or past the back bumper of the car ahead of you. Then finish turning the steering wheel hard left.
7. Once in the parking spot, you may be centered, otherwise straighten your car and center it. Select to "Park" and set the emergency (park) brake.

WHEN LEAVING A PARALLEL PARKING SPACE

If you can, accomplish it in one move using SSMOG and turning your wheels are left. (Search/Scan, Signal, Mirrors, Over the shoulder and Go if clear).

If you cannot make it out in one move, then turn your wheels hard right, shift to reverse, then put the transmission in drive and turn your wheels hard left. This is more effective than going straight backwards. Always check traffic **TWICE** when leaving.

PERPENDICULAR OR 90 DEGREE BACKING

When doing 90 degree backing into a driveway or parking stall, because of the sharp 90 degree angle, approach your space at least one-car width away from the space. Go past the space about five feet. Stop. Put the car in REVERSE. Turn the wheel hard right and start backing. Remember, if you cannot make it into the space on your first try, do NOT start over again. Just turn your wheels hard left, pull forward, adjust your steering and then back between the flags while adjusting your steering. ADJUSTMENT of steering is the key with any parking procedure. Watch when you are backing and also take advantage of your outside mirrors on the doors.

When you leave, be sure to signal and look both ways.

90 DEGREE PARKING FORWARD INTO A PARKING STALL

Same procedure as 45 degree parking, only a sharper angle and approach your space at least one-car width away for the angle. Time your turn (right or left) so your car is centered when completed. Try using reference points with 90 degree parking.