

NEW DRIVER CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

Driver's Education is a good first step in teaching young people to drive, but a parent's role in teaching is crucial. Below is a checklist developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that parents can use to help a student learn safe driving skills.

Student Driver...	Never	Sometimes	Always
• Knows location of instruments, gauges and safety devices and checks them before driving			
• Adjust mirrors and seat properly			
• Wears safety belts without being reminded			
• Works to maintain a safe following distance			
• Demonstrates correct hand position on the steering wheel			
• Demonstrates the "two-second" rule – you can count "1 – 1000, 2 – 1000" between the time the back of a car in front of you passes a stationary object and the time the front of your car reaches the same spot			
• Is aware of other driver's blind spots			
• Checks blind spots before changing lanes			
• Is aware of tailgaters and knows how to deal with them			
• Anticipates changing traffic lights			
• Checks mirrors frequently			
• Uses horn appropriately			
• Signals before turns and lane changes			
• Anticipates possible braking situations			
• Appears relaxed and comfortable while driving			
• Is comfortable driving at night			
• Uses high and low beams appropriately			
• Adjusts speed to road, traffic and weather conditions			
• Works to maintain a space cushion or buffer zone on all four sides of the car			
• Checks intersections carefully and pauses before entering an intersection			

Student Driver...	Never	Sometimes	Always
• Sets emergency brake or parking brake before leaving vehicle			
• Demonstrates good, smooth movements and coordination during and after turns			
• Demonstrates good scanning habits at all times			
• Obeys traffic laws – including speed limits			