

# START SMART...

*The keys to safe  
teen driving*



## 10 Going the Distance: SUPERVISE TEEN DRIVING

### ***Why should you continue to supervise your teen's driving?***

To keep your teen safe and to help her/him gain valuable experience, you should continue to supervise her/his driving after s/he gets a driver's license. This idea usually sparks reactions like, "The state lets me drive by myself, so why don't you?" The answer is that having a license doesn't mean a person is a perfect driver. It just means that the person meets the *minimum* requirements for a driver's license.

### ***Learning never stops!***

Learning doesn't stop when a teen obtains a driver's license. Teens need lots of practice. Their driving skills and judgment continue to improve for *at least* the first 20,000 miles of driving. By continuing to supervise your teen, you can assist them in becoming a good, safe driver.

### ***Supervise driving under high-risk conditions.***

In addition, certain conditions are especially risky for newly licensed teens:

- ✓ *Teen passengers (and no adults).*
- ✓ *Nighttime driving.*
- ✓ *High-speed roads.*
- ✓ *Adverse weather conditions.*

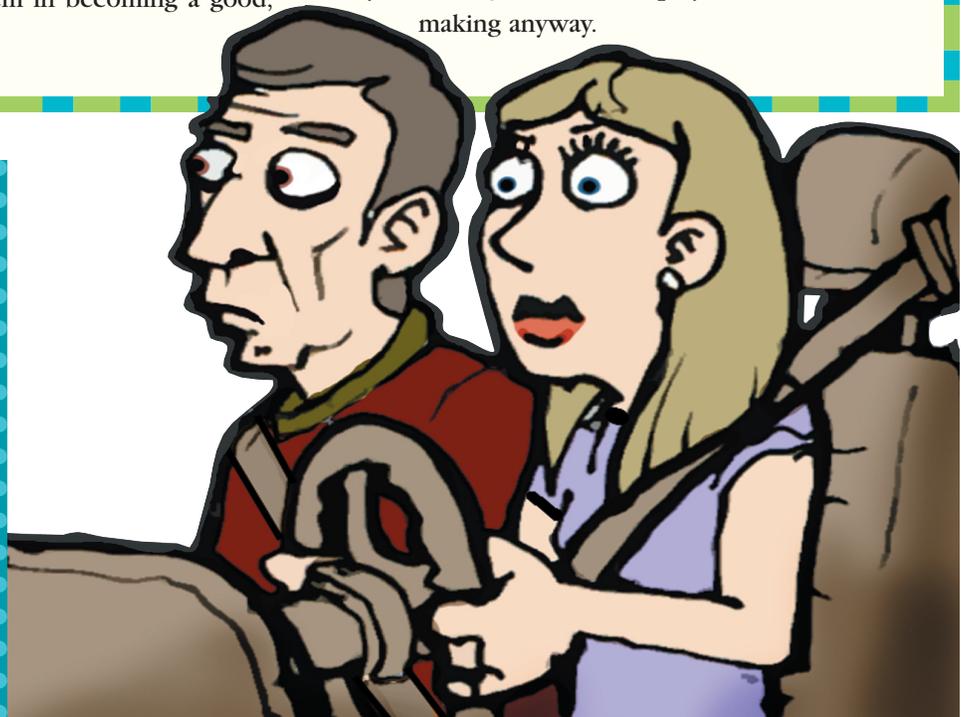
So, supervise your teen's driving under these conditions before s/he does it on her/his own.

### ***What can parents do?***

Supervise your teen's driving regularly. Plan times each week that your teen can drive with you (or another qualified adult). To fit this into your schedule, have your teenager drive on trips you would be making anyway.

### ***Parents agree!***

Continue to supervise your teen's driving after s/he gets a license. It is a good way to help her/him improve driving skills and judgment while protecting her/him from unnecessary risk.





## AAA StartSmart Experiences

*"I am glad that we decided not to let Theo drive at night by himself for three months, because he wasn't ready. When we supervised his nighttime driving, we realized that he wasn't making any adjustments for the poor light conditions."*—Henry Riggs, father of 16-year-old Theo

*"He's got a driver's license but not enough experience to drive at night or in bad weather. I am glad that the AAA StartSmart newsletters talked about that."*—Richard Wells, father of 17-year-old Joe

*"Sara was really excited when she got her driver's license. She always wanted to take the car, pick up her friends, and ride around. We didn't allow aimless trips like that for the first three months. She finally calmed down."*—Rene Reno, mother of 16-year-old Sara



## StartSmart comments...

Safe driving is the result of practice and maturity. Make sure your teen gets plenty of experience driving during the day. Then, supervise driving under higher risk conditions, such as at night, before s/he is allowed to do it alone.

### **BOTTOM LINE**

*Supervise plenty of practice driving in new conditions before your teen does it on her/his own.*

*Continue to supervise your teen's driving, especially under high-risk conditions!*

