

START SMART...

The keys to safe
teen driving



18 Going the Distance: STAY INVOLVED

How long should parents remain involved in their teens' driving?

Teen driving risks are reduced when parents set and enforce rules and gradually increase driving privileges over the first two years their teens are licensed. You should stay involved in your teen's driving at least until s/he turns 18. This way, you help protect your teen from unnecessary risk.

Why are teens at risk?

Teens are inexperienced drivers, and certain conditions are especially risky for them:

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

Your teen becomes better able to handle these high-risk conditions as s/he gains driving experience and maturity. Teens' driving performance continues to improve over at least the *first 20,000 miles of driving*, more than 2 years for most teens.

How can parents help?

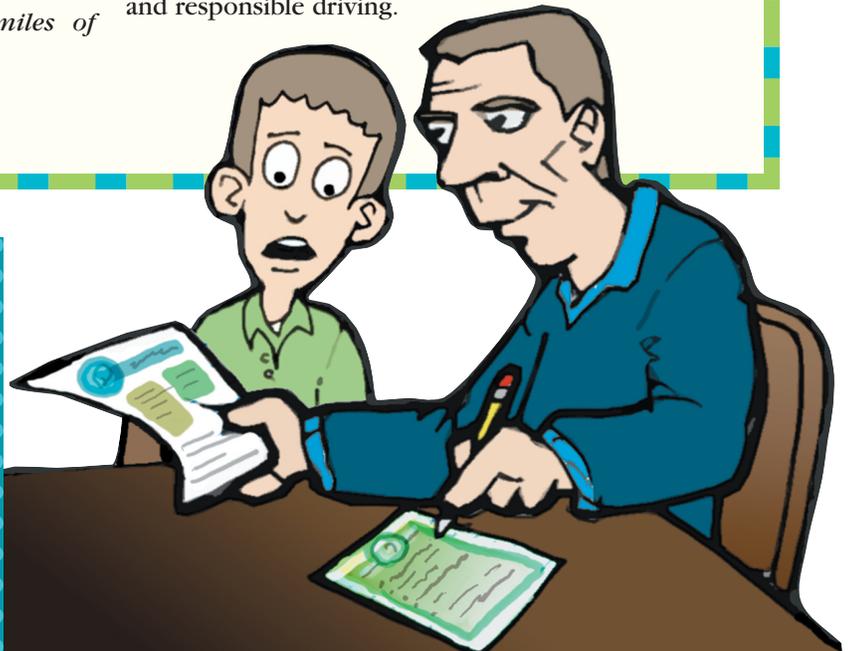
- ✓ Keep driving rules in place, and reduce or remove driving privileges if there are violations.
- ✓ Clearly and repeatedly state your expectations for your teen to obey laws, drive safely, and follow the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement.
- ✓ Continue to monitor and approve your teen's trips in the car.
- ✓ Continue to monitor driving performance by riding with her or him occasionally.
- ✓ Hold off getting your teen a car of her/his own until it is absolutely necessary.

How important is continued involvement?

Soon your teen will go off on her/his own. Until then, the more you continue to monitor and coach and practice, the better prepared s/he will become for safe and responsible driving.

Parents agree!

Managing teen driving with the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement for the first two years leads to safer teen driving in the long run. Many parents believe using the agreement is related to their teens having few or no tickets or crashes!





AAA StartSmart Experiences

“When my daughter got to Checkpoint 3, she asked if we still had to continue with the agreement. I told her it’s not a punishment, it’s to help us manage her transition to independent driving. Soon she will go off to college, and I want to know she will be a safe driver.”—Gregory Mosier, father of 18-year-old Lena

“Raymond wanted his own car when he turned 17. I told him that he could get one when he was 18 and we had completed the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement. Because he’s done so well, I would even pay half. He was all for that!”—Nathaniel Bingham, father of 17-year-old Raymond

“I was really mad at my parents when they said I couldn’t drive all my friends to the prom because I could not have that many friends as passengers because of our driving agreement. They were right, though. I can see that I am a much better driver now. I still have some restrictions, but they’ll be over soon enough.”—Lori, a 17-year-old senior



StartSmart comments...

Good driving results from practice, experience, and maturity. Keep the driving agreement in place for the first two years of teen driving, and feel confident that you are doing all you can to ensure that your teen is a safe and responsible driver, for now and the future!

BOTTOM LINE

Stay keenly involved in your teen’s driving for the first two years of driving!

Now that your teen has some driving experience, following the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement is still very important!

