

START SMART...

*the keys to safe
teen driving*



9 Going the Distance: USE THE PARENT-TEEN DRIVING AGREEMENT

Why a AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement?

AAA StartSmart supports the commonsense notion that parents need to set and enforce rules about teen driving. Naturally, teens want total driving freedom. However, when you set and enforce rules and gradually increase driving privileges, *you can 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 will become better able to handle these high-risk conditions, but only as s/he gains driving experience and maturity.

How can parents help?

You can help by doing three things:

- ✓ *Encourage your teen to practice driving alone under low-risk conditions.*
- ✓ *Initially, supervise his or her driving under higher-risk conditions.*
- ✓ *Allow your teen to drive alone under higher-risk conditions only when s/he is ready.*

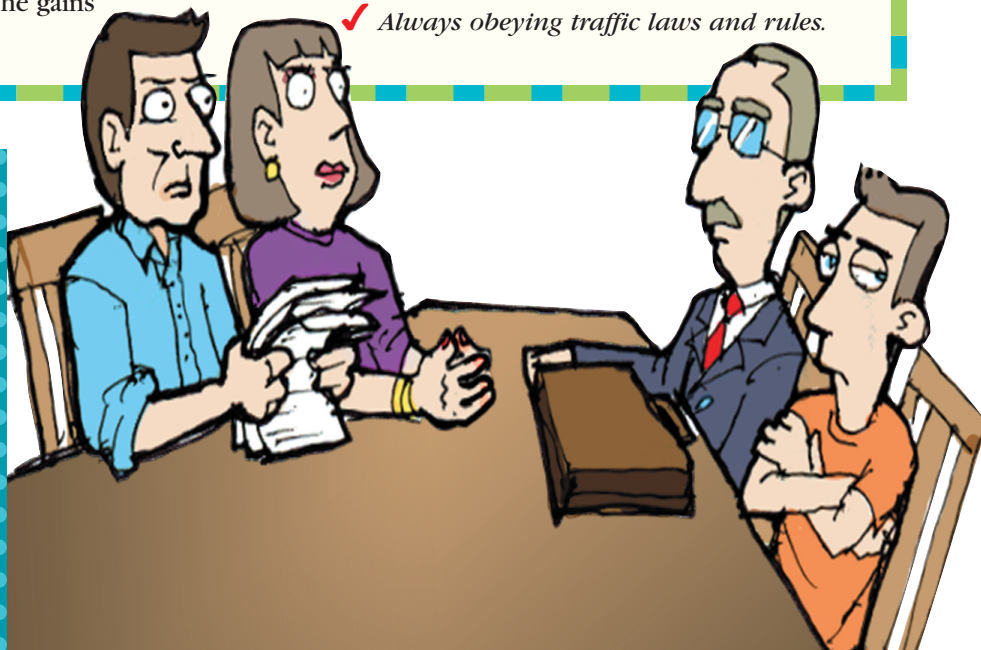
How can the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement help?

It helps you meet all three goals. The Agreement also helps ensure that teens establish good habits that will last throughout their driving lives, including:

- ✓ *Always wearing seat belts properly.*
- ✓ *Never consuming alcohol or other drugs with driving.*
- ✓ *Always obeying traffic laws and rules.*

Parents agree!

Using the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement helps manage teen driving. This newsletter and the newsletters you will receive over the next few months will explain how other AAA StartSmart parents have dealt with challenges in managing teen driving.





AAA StartSmart Experiences

"Our son is a good kid and so are his friends, so we didn't think we needed any written rules. When he had a pretty serious crash while driving at night with friends, we decided to complete the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement. We will make sure he has more driving experience before he drives in dangerous conditions again."—**Martin Greer, father of 16-year-old Keith**

"Mannie couldn't drive at night for at least two more months, but we made an exception. He really wanted to drive his friends to a school dance. When it started to rain, I was a wreck, and it made me think about his safety. He made it home safely, but I won't be granting many exceptions in the future."—**Leslie Carlson, mother of 16-year-old Mannie**

"I was really mad at my parents when they said I couldn't drive at night for three months! All my friends could. Then a kid at school was killed in a late-night car wreck. I didn't know him very well, but it made me think, a lot."—**Lori, a 16-year-old sophomore**



StartSmart comments...

Because they lack driving experience, even responsible teens have crashes. Good driving results from practice, experience, and maturity. Teens need to gain valuable driving experience without the added risks presented by factors such as teen passengers and nighttime driving. That's why you should agree on when and where your teen can drive based on his/her experience and proven responsibility.

BOTTOM LINE

If you have not completed the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement, do it now!

Now that your teen is a licensed driver, adopting the AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement is more important than ever!

