

EXPERIENCE BEHIND THE WHEEL

75 PERCENT OF ALL TEEN DRIVER CRASHES WERE THE RESULT OF A TEEN DRIVER'S ERROR. HALF OF ALL SERIOUS TEEN DRIVER CRASHES WERE CAUSED BY THESE THREE SPECIFIC ERRORS.

- **Driver did not properly scan to detect and react to hazards 21%**
- **Driver was driving too fast for road conditions 21%**
- **Driver was distracted by something in or outside the vehicle 19%**

There is no “magic number” that transforms a teen into an experienced driver. However, the greatest lifetime chance of crashing occurs in the first 6 to 12 months after receiving a license.

THERE ARE THREE BASIC STAGES THAT A TEEN MOVES THROUGH IN DEVELOPING EXPERIENCE:

STAGE ONE: NOVICE

New drivers need adult supervision, not only to explain the mechanics of driving, but also to provide specific guidance to navigate various road conditions.

- Knowing the rules of the road.
- Knowing how to steer, reverse, make turns, and park the car.
- Knowing when, and how, to interact with other road users.

STAGE TWO: ADVANCED BEGINNER

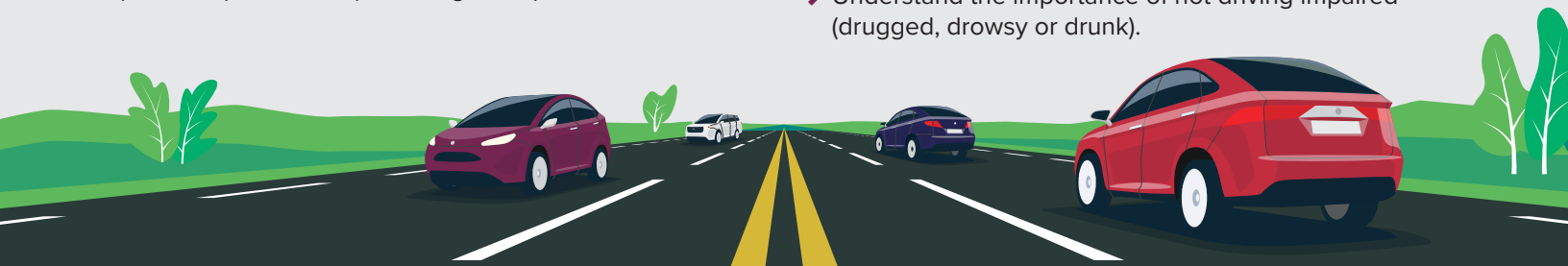
New drivers who have completed the minimum state-required practice hours to acquire a license generally:

- Know how to deal safely with a few traffic situations.
- Know to lower their speed in congested zones and residential areas.
- Overestimate their driving competence, putting themselves in situations beyond their ability.
- Require rules and close supervision. Continued adult-supervised practice helps them gain experience.

STAGE THREE: DEVELOPING COMPETENCE

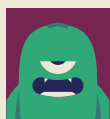
With more experience, reflection and guidance, young drivers begin to build a broader base of on-road, behind-the-wheel experiences which allow them to:

- Monitor the environment around the vehicle, scanning far ahead to identify risks and to adjust driving accordingly.
- Recognize the importance of wearing a seat belt and making sure that passengers do, too.
- Recognize and avoid distractions inside and outside the vehicle, including those related to passengers, cell phones, or other electronic devices.
- Control emotions when driving.
- Recognize and avoid driving in conditions that are too challenging.
- Grasp the importance of not taking intentional risks while driving.
- Respect other road users, including motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, and adjust driving behavior accordingly.
- Understand the importance of not driving impaired (drugged, drowsy or drunk).



EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING PROCESS

- Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs are associated with a substantial reduction in teen driver fatal crash involvement. The most comprehensive programs are associated with the greatest benefit.
- There are three components of GDL that separately contribute to reduced crash rates – extended learner permit period, nighttime driving restrictions, and passenger restrictions – GDL programs that combine all three may result in the highest crash reductions among young and inexperienced drivers.
- Nearly all states have some components of GDL law in place to help protect teens from serious crashes during the first several months of driving.



FLORIDA
**LEARNER'S
LICENSE**

AGE
15+

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP THEIR TEENS THROUGH THIS PROCESS?

DURING THE LEARNER'S PERMIT PHASE

- Supervise teen's practice driving and provide important coaching and instruction.



FLORIDA
**DRIVER
LICENSE**
WITH RESTRICTIONS

AGE
16+17

DURING THE NEWLY LICENSED PHASE

- Use a parent-teen driving agreement (see inside of this folder) to set privileges that give teens experience in less risky driving conditions.
- Continue to monitor the teen's unsupervised driving, including conditions they drive in and how they are driving.
- Make opportunities to ride with the teen to continue giving supervised practice in riskier conditions.
- Frequently emphasize that teens follow all traffic laws and the terms of their driving agreement.
- Evaluate the teen's driving and adjust driving privileges as they gain more experience.



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AGE
18

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