

Tips for the Supervisor

Has your son or daughter just got a learner's licence? The scary thought is that now you will be sitting alongside them while they drive you around. Your life in their hands!



Before you get started on the practice drives with your learner driver there are a few things you could consider.

- Learner drivers are among the safest drivers on the road. They rarely have crashes. You and your car are quite safe!
- Within the first six months of gaining a provisional licence they have gone from being the safest group of drivers to the most unsafe.
- In Australia drivers aged between 17 and 25 make up slightly more than 15% of the total population, yet they represent around 32% of serious crash casualties.

What can explain this?

Driving looks easy but, like many other activities, it takes a long time to master. There is a lot to learn.

Experienced drivers can automatically put together all of the skills needed to be a safe driver, such as:

- applying the brakes, clutch, gears;
- interpreting and applying the road rules;
- making decisions about where and when to go, and
- looking out for things that may cause problems and then dealing with them.

New drivers spend a lot of time and attention on the physical skills required for driving (braking, steering etc) and forget about the other things that are most important in terms of safety.

Researchers suggest that it takes more than 100 hours of practice for a learner to be able to do things automatically. Having plenty of driving practice is essential for every learner.