

Navigating the Teen Driving Years: More Great Ideas

House Rules:

New drivers in B. C. Must follow the Graduated Licensing Program learner and novice restrictions. But you may wish to set your own (as the parent) additional House Rules. Slowly increase driving privileges (in accordance with the GLP restrictions) as your teen gains experience and you gain confidence in his abilities. Consider these additional

House Rules:

1. **Passengers.** Passengers represent a huge risk factor for new drivers. A 16-year-old with 3 passengers faces nearly 3 times the risk of a fatal crash as one driving alone. (Journal of the American Medical Association, March 22, 2000).
2. **Time of day or week.** In B.C. most crashes involving young drivers happen on the weekend. Consider a curfew for weekend and night driving (especially on Friday and Saturday nights) until you gain confidence in your teen's driving ability.
3. **Road and weather conditions.** Dangerous weather or road conditions present extra challenges for an inexperienced driver. Consider special rules to cover weather or road conditions, and ensure your teen knows that you have the final word when judging adverse weather or road conditions.
4. **Geographic boundaries.** Mastering driving skills is more risky if your teen must also master a new route or drive through unfamiliar territory. Consider setting geographic boundaries.
5. **Drugs and alcohol.** B.C. laws have tough restrictions that bar any alcohol in the body during the learner and novice stages. Consider extending your own no-drinking/no-drugs policy after your teen gets his full-privilege licence.
6. **Seat belts.** Even though your teen grew up using a seat belt, don't assume they will always use it when their gets out on his own. Discuss the risks of not using a seat belt with your teen and talk about how they should always insist their passengers buckle up.
7. **Car maintenance and operational costs.** Contributing to maintenance and insurance based on how much your teen is using your car will teach them about the true cost of ownership. And understanding the financial risks of crashing may help your teen to think twice about their driving behaviour.

Visit www.icbc.com for statistics that support these house rules.

By Bernice Ducharme