



## Parent-Teen Homework Assignments to Increase Driver Safety

### List of Homework Assignments & Comments About Them

| Homework Assignments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Montana parents said...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Driver Ed instructors said...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>#1 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS &amp; SAFETY EQUIPMENT</b><br><br>1.1 Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Tasks.<br>1.2 Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Adjustments.<br>1.3 Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Controls.<br>1.4 Family Exercise: Rapid Fire Commands.                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "I got into the emergency planning part. Good to have before it's needed."</li> <li>♦ "Good, helpful, simple."</li> <li>♦ "I forgot how automatically I do things. Explaining is more difficult than doing"</li> <li>♦ "All of these things are important for teaching her to be a safe and competent driver."</li> <li>♦ "Fun + interesting."</li> <li>♦ "After the exercise my son realized how important it was to know where everything was."</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "It creates good habits."</li> <li>♦ "Student/parent collaboration is evident by the comments provided from parents."</li> <li>♦ "[Parent] comments indicated it was a good opportunity to see what their student knew."</li> <li>♦ "All students/parents in my 2009 summer class completed [it]."</li> <li>♦ "Parents liked this activity."</li> <li>♦ "Fun learning, positive interactions."</li> </ul>                                                  |
| <b>#2 TRAFFIC LAWS &amp; COURTEOUS DRIVING</b><br><br>2.1 Family Exercise: Do You Know Your Signs?<br>2.2 Driving Activity: Signs.<br>2.3 Family Discussion: Traffic Laws.<br>2.4 Family Discussion: Courteous Driving.<br>2.5 Driving Activity: Driver Communication.                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Good activities that brought out good questions."</li> <li>♦ "This was a good activity for new and old drivers alike."</li> <li>♦ "Both parents participated &amp; had fun."</li> <li>♦ "[This] was easy to do on [the] way to school."</li> <li>♦ "Good opportunity to discuss safe driving."</li> <li>♦ "Family bonding w/ teenager [is] always a plus."</li> <li>♦ "Brought a greater knowledge of courteous driving."</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Parents/teens enjoyed this."</li> <li>♦ "Good discussion leads."</li> <li>♦ "It should help new drivers a lot."</li> <li>♦ "Great activity for kids &amp; parents."</li> <li>♦ "Parents were able to easily follow the lesson."</li> <li>♦ "Some students knew their signs better than their parents!"</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>#3 VISION, BALANCE, &amp; JUDGMENT</b><br><br>3.1 Family Discussion: Vision, Balance, & Judgment.<br>3.2 Family Exercise: Driving Pictures.<br>3.3 Driving Activity: Curves, Hillcrests, & Intersections.<br>3.4 Driving Activity: Speed Control & Lane Position.                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Great learning tool!"</li> <li>♦ "Good things to check for and be aware of not only for kids but parents as well."</li> <li>♦ "These were a bit more difficult, but very helpful!"</li> <li>♦ "Good skill building."</li> <li>♦ "Helped show the importance of always watching around you for hazards."</li> <li>♦ "Great way for me to measure his readiness to drive."</li> <li>♦ "We continue to do these exercises each time we drive."</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Great info."</li> <li>♦ "Nice reminders for parents."</li> <li>♦ "Good examples."</li> <li>♦ "Easily understood by parents/teens."</li> <li>♦ "Easily performed by student/parent."</li> <li>♦ "Great activity, very helpful."</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>#4 ADVERSE DRIVING CONDITIONS</b><br><br>4.1 Family Discussion: Adverse Driving Conditions.<br>4.2 Family Exercise: Driving Pictures.<br>4.3 Family Exercise: Vehicle Safety Kits.<br>4.4 Driving Activity: Driving Conditions.                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Important to safe driving."</li> <li>♦ "Provides a good focus."</li> <li>♦ "I think all these activities are great. We've really enjoyed the conversations."</li> <li>♦ "Good practical learning."</li> <li>♦ "Made my son more aware of his town and way around."</li> <li>♦ "I would have felt more prepared as a teenage driver if this had been available to me."</li> </ul>                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "This should make parents aware of teen experience and lack of it."</li> <li>♦ "Easily understood."</li> <li>♦ "Positive feedback [from families]."</li> <li>♦ "Fun, clear."</li> <li>♦ "Good activity."</li> <li>♦ "Specific responsibilities clear."</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>#5 CONTINUED SAFE DRIVING &amp; SUPERVISED PRACTICE</b><br><br>5.1 Family Discussion: Unsafe Driving.<br>5.2 Family Exercise: Parent-Teen Agreement for Safe Driving Expectations.<br>5.3 Family Exercise: Keep Track of Driver Progress: First Assessment.<br>5.4 Family Exercise: Schedule for Supervised Driving. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "All this helps kids + parents stay on track."</li> <li>♦ "Makes driving together not rushed &amp; less stressful."</li> <li>♦ "Good way to track his improvement."</li> <li>♦ "Makes my expectations clear."</li> <li>♦ "Takes time but worth it."</li> <li>♦ "Nice way to set-up rules for driving - instead of just letting them drive w/ no rules or consequences."</li> <li>♦ "Good to see progress &amp; to see where they need to go."</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Good review."</li> <li>♦ "Those parents that actually worked through this felt it was very relevant."</li> <li>♦ "Good discussion points listed."</li> <li>♦ "General [family] comments indicated that parents were discussing this information and how it tied back to the previous four lessons."</li> <li>♦ "Good parent information."</li> <li>♦ "The tie-in to GDL and how to make this step work appeared to be appreciated by parents."</li> </ul> |

Parents' time is ALWAYS limited, but it's only a 5-week commitment and the effects could last a lifetime!



# Montana KEYS Homework Assignments

- ☐ Homework Assignments are designed to be supplemental to the high school driver education curriculum sponsored by the Montana Traffic Education Programs, Office of Public Instruction. Thus, the content of the homework assignments contain certain topics, progress in a certain way, and follow and build upon each other.
- ☐ Homework Assignments consider parents as “supervisors” of practice driving and driving skills rather than “teachers” of driving skills. Thus, the teenagers’ role is to familiarize parents with terms and procedures that they are learning in driver education.
- ☐ Homework Assignments are not yet evaluated for effectiveness. Thus far, parents and driver education instructors like the activities, but research on their impact on parent supervision of teen driving or teen driver safety behaviors or outcomes has not been conducted.
- ☐ Homework Assignments are based on the tenets of Goal-oriented Persuasion, which indicates that to be most effective:
  - ☐ Parents and teenagers need to participate in the activities together. Each has a role to play so interactions should feel more “conversational” than “academic” or “one-sided.”
  - ☐ Homework Assignments need to be distributed and completed one at a time (not given 2 or more at a time or all together). Parents and teenagers need to have enough time between assignments to assimilate the information from each assignment into practice driving before turning their attention to another and/or more advanced topic.
  - ☐ Homework Assignments need to be printed in color and preferably on heavier stock and/or shiny paper. This makes them seem more important, valuable, significant, etc.
- ☐ You are free to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work and/or make derivative works from it provided you give the original authors (Jessica Hartos, PhD, and David Huff, MS) and sponsor (Montana Department of Transportation) credit. For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work. When using any ideas, parts, or products of this research in print, presentations, and/or publications, please use the following reference:

Hartos, JL, Huff, D, & Carroll, J. (2009). Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety (KEYS) Pilot Study: Increasing Parental Involvement in Teenage Driving through Driver Education. Final Report. Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) No. 8117-37. Available at:  
<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/planning/keys.shtml>
- ☐ If others are interested in learning more about the Montana KEYS Project or in obtaining copies of the homework assignments, please have them contact Fran Penner-Ray at [fpenner-ray@mt.gov](mailto:fpenner-ray@mt.gov) or (406) 444-4432, rather than distributing the materials yourself.

***Thank you for your interest in our work!***



Distributed by:  
**Montana**  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)