



Parent-Teen Homework Assignments to Increase Driver Safety

INFORMATION SHEET FOR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #1

KEYS to... Safety Precautions & Safety Equipment

Purpose

To increase the safety of everyone involved, families should ensure that teens have safety knowledge, skills, & behaviors related to Safety Equipment & Safety Precautions.

- ♦ **Goal for Parent:** Make it clear to your teen that you expect her/him to be a safe driver. For Activity #1, assess your teen's knowledge, skills, & behaviors related to safety precautions & safety equipment.
- ♦ **Goal for Teen:** Fully explain to your parents the concepts & show them the procedures that you have learned in driver education. For Activity #1, show your parents that you have the knowledge, skills, & behaviors for safety precautions & safety equipment.

Instructions

Completing activities may take some time & energy, but the safety impact will be long-lasting!

- ♦ **TOGETHER:** Parents & teens need to: (1) read over this Information Sheet, (2) fully & thoroughly perform the parent-teen activities listed on the Assignment Sheet for Homework Assignment #1, & (3) complete & turn in the Assignment Sheet to your driver education class.
- ♦ **As your family completes the activities, remember to REMAIN PATIENT with each other! This is a new experience for both parents & teens!**

Information for Homework Assignment #1: Safety Precautions

Box A: Be Prepared For Emergencies

You never know when you will have an emergency situation, so be prepared.

Key precautions

1. Keep a first aid kit in the vehicle.
2. Keep reflective triangles in the vehicle.
3. Keep a cell phone in the vehicle.

Jump starting your vehicle

1. Place 2 vehicles close together but not touching & turn off the ignitions of both vehicles.
2. Connect the positive & negative jumper cable ends in this sequence (cable ends must not touch each other!): 1) Positive terminal of good battery; 2) positive terminal of dead battery; 3) negative terminal of good battery; & 4) attach other negative cable end to a bolt or other metal part of the vehicle with the dead battery. **DO NOT** connect anything to the negative terminal of the dead battery for safety purposes!
3. Check the cable connections & then start the engine of the vehicle with the good battery.
4. Attempt to start the vehicle with the dead battery. If it does not start, do not crank the starter for longer than 20 seconds; you could damage the starter. Wait 2 minutes, check the cable connections, & then attempt to start the vehicle again.
5. Once the vehicle starts, disconnect the jumper cables in the reverse order from the way you connected them.

Changing a flat tire

1. Turn on your hazard lights & find a safe level place. Make sure your vehicle is on flat, hard ground, far from moving traffic. Keep driving on the flat tire on the side of the road until you find a safe place to stop.
2. Set the parking brake & block the front & rear of the tire diagonally opposite the tire you are changing.
3. Get out the spare & jack.
4. Loosen the lug nuts about 1/2 turn.
5. Jack the vehicle up so the flat tire is one to two inches off the ground.
6. Remove the lug nuts (keep them nearby!).
7. Take off the bad tire & put on the spare.
8. Put the lug nuts back on & tighten them by hand.
9. Partly lower the vehicle so that the new tire is firmly touching the ground.
10. With the lug wrench, tighten the lug nuts completely.
11. Lower the vehicle all the way & remove the jack. Unblock the diagonal tire, & put everything back.

Information for Homework Assignment #1: Safety Equipment

Box B: Use Vehicle Safety Equipment Correctly

Safety equipment in the vehicle is designed to help reduce the risk for crash and/or the severity of injury.

Correct use of seat belts

Seat belts keep you & your passengers inside the vehicle where you are the safest & keep you from hitting objects or passengers inside the vehicle.

1. Wear the lap belt snug across your pelvis (not your stomach).
2. Wear the shoulder strap from your shoulder (not your neck) to your hip (do NOT put the strap behind you).

Correct driver position, especially with airbags

Airbags inflate at a rate of up to 200 mph in less than half a second.

1. Move your seat as far back as you can while still being able to comfortably reach the gas & brake pedals.
2. Scoot back in the seat until your bottom is in the crease & your back is flush.
3. Tilt the steering wheel downward so the airbag is aimed at your chest & NOT at your head or neck.
4. Adjust your hands on the steering wheel using one of the "balanced hand positions."
5. Make sure you are at least 10 inches from the airbag. If needed, you can recline the seatback or raise your seating height to achieve the extra distance.

DO NOT place children less than age 12 in a front seat with an airbag.

Correct use of mirrors

When mirrors are adjusted incorrectly, tunnel vision & blind spots are worse. **Tunnel vision** is the limited or narrow view you have when using your mirrors & **blind spots** are the places to the left-rear & right-rear of the vehicle which cannot be seen when looking in the mirrors.

1. When you first get in the vehicle, adjust your seat & then adjust the mirrors.
2. Center the inside rearview mirror so that you can see out of the whole back window.
3. Adjust the side-view mirrors to the point where you can just see the side of your vehicle on the inside edge of the mirror.

Always turn your head for a "quick check" to make sure the road is clear before turning or changing lanes.

Family Activities to Increase Teen Driver Safety: For Now & in the Future

Families should complete parent-teen homework assignments to assess teen knowledge & practice of driver safety.

For Homework Assignment #1, teens will show parents how to do the following:

- ♦ Complete the following tasks—check & put air in the tires, change a tire, jump start the engine, & put fuel in the vehicle
- ♦ Position the following devices—the seat, yourself, the steering wheel, the mirrors, & the seat belt
- ♦ Use the following controls—windshield wipers, windshield cleaner, wiper blade conditions, fuel gauge, turn signals, hazard lights, ignition, gear shifter, brake pedal, air flow, gas pedal, back-up lights, & emergency or hand brake

Families should talk about driver safety OFTEN.

Parents & teens should discuss the following:

- ☐ The importance of driver & all passengers of a vehicle using seat belts
- ☐ The importance of all occupants of a vehicle being far enough from air bags
- ☐ The importance of knowing emergency procedures

Families should set expectations for driver safety EARLY.

MAKE CLEAR that teens are expected to:

- ☐ Wear seat belt as driver or passenger
- ☐ Have all passengers wear seat belts

MAKE CLEAR that teens who violate safety expectations will:

- ☐ Lose driving privileges for _____ (write in amount of time)
- ☐ Other: _____ (write in what & amount of time)



Parent-Teen Homework Assignments to Increase Driver Safety *ASSIGNMENT SHEET FOR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #1* *Safety Precautions & Safety Equipment*

Date:

Student:

Parent:

Phone number:

Instructions

Together, parent & teen need to: (1) read over the information provided in the Information Sheet for Homework Assignment #1, (2) fully & thoroughly perform the parent-teen activities listed in this Assignment Sheet, & (3) complete & turn in this Assignment Sheet to your driver education class.

- ♦ **Materials needed:** Parent, teen, this assignment sheet, pencil or pen, vehicle, & something to use as a blindfold.
- ♦ **Time needed:** Each activity can take 10-30 minutes & can be done separately, at different times.
- ♦ **Directions:** After completing each activity, check (☑) the box to show that it was completed & then parent rates teen's performance as "good," "fair," or "needs improvement." No matter what the rating, please list comments about teen's performance to help us keep track.
- ♦ **Grading:** Grading of Assignment #1 is based **ONLY on completing the activities, not on the actual ratings for teen progress.** Thus, a "needs improvement" rating will not lower your teen's grade. This information is important for tracking student progress & providing you with feedback for ways to improve.

☑	Activities for Safety Precautions (Use information from <i>Box A</i> on the Information Sheet)	Rating (☑) <i>NI = needs improvement</i>			
		Good	Fair	NI	Comments
☑	Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Tasks. To assess knowledge, teen (1) tells parent how to go about doing the following tasks while (2) physically locating & taking out the necessary equipment & materials for the tasks, & (3) performing the tasks. Parent checks accuracy using information from <i>Box A</i> on the Information Sheet or the driver's manual.				
☐	Change a tire (something to block tires with, jack, lug nut wrench, spare tire, lug nuts). You can opt to simulate the experience by getting out all of the needed equipment & "pretending" to do it.	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Jumps start the engine (jumper cables, vehicle battery, positive/negative battery terminals, & position of positive/negative clamps on good/bad batteries). Simulate the experience by getting out all of the needed equipment & "pretending" to do it BUT DO NOT HOOK UP CABLES TO VEHICLE BATTERIES.	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Check the oil (guidelines in the owner's manual for checking the oil, dipstick, oil cap, dipstick reading)	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Check other fluids (guidelines in the owner's manual for checking the steering, brake, transmission, & windshield fluids)	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Go to an air station & put air in the tires (air pressure guidelines in the owner's manual, tire pressure gauge, air stems)	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Go to a fuel station & put the correct fuel in the vehicle (fuel tank cover, fuel tank cap)	☐	☐	☐	

☒	Activities for Safety Equipment (Use information from Box B on the Information Sheet)	Rating (☒) NI = needs improvement			
☒	Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Adjustments. To assess knowledge, teen sits in the front seat & (1) positions the following devices while (2) telling parent what they are doing & why. Parent checks accuracy using information from Box B on the Information Sheet	Good	Fair	NI	Comments
☐	Seat positioning	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Yourself in the seat	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Steering wheel	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Mirrors	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Seat belt	☐	☐	☐	
☒	Vehicle-Related Activity: Vehicle Controls. To assess knowledge, teen puts the key in the ignition in the "on" position (but doesn't start the engine) & then teen (1) physically locates the following controls, (2) tells parent what controls are for/when they are used, & (3) shows parent how to turn controls on/off. Parent checks accuracy using own knowledge or the driver's manual.	Good	Fair	NI	Comments
☐	Windshield wipers (check condition by cleaning windshield)	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Windshield cleaner	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Headlight low & high beam	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Fuel gauge	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Right turn signal	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Left turn signal	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Hazard lights	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Ignition	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Gear shifter	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Back-up lights	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Brake pedal	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Gas pedal	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Air conditioner	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Heat	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Vent	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Front window defroster	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Back window defroster	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Emergency or hand brake	☐	☐	☐	
☒	Family Exercise: Rapid Fire Commands. To assess skill, teen sits in the driver seat (ignition on /engine off) while parent quickly names vehicle controls in succession (e.g., "brake pedal, right turn signal, headlight low beam," etc.) & teen quickly locates each as it is said. Parent repeats this process, mixing up the order, until teen "masters" the activity. Afterwards, see how well teen does when blindfolded!	Good	Fair	NI	Comments
☐	Sighted	☐	☐	☐	
☐	Blindfolded	☐	☐	☐	