

It can be a daunting time for parents as teenagers gain their independence, and possibly their L-plates, but there are a few simple things which parents can do to limit a young person's exposure to the risks on the road...

If your teenager is keen to learn to drive, have a think about the following advice:

**Delaying driving lessons** for a few years decreases the risk of a collision. This is because risk-taking behaviour decreases with age.

That's why insurance premiums begin to reduce in the mid-20's.

**Don't teach them yourself.**

You'll only pass on your bad habits - encourage them to take proper driving lessons with an approved driving instructor.

**Keep learning!**

Encouraging them to take further driver training after gaining their licence will ensure they get to experience different road types and conditions, driving at different times of day etc.

It may even reduce their insurance premium.

**Selecting a driving instructor...**

**DO:**

- Check out more than one instructor
- Ask plenty of questions; such as how long have you been an instructor? Do you have discounts for block bookings? etc
- Ask for recommendations from family and friends - the best instructors rarely have to advertise
- Check to see what colour badge they hold - green means they are fully qualified; pink means they are a trainee, and may not pass their final exams
- Ask if they subscribe to the DSA (Driving Standards Agency) code of practice.

**DON'T:**

- Choose on the basis of cost - the cheapest seldom means the best
- Choose an instructor who promises to pass students quickly with few lessons - some people need 40 lessons to be a proficient driver
- Choose on the basis of their pass rate - most people will pass eventually!