



## Helping Learner Drivers - Who can help?

**\*\* Learner must be insured to drive 'your' car. Speak with Insurance Company.**

To

accompany a learner driver, you need to be at least 21, have held a full driving licence for at least three years and clearly display 'L' plates on the back and front of your car. Not on the windows!

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) recommends grounding in driving skills with a fully qualified instructor before you start accompanying a learner. It takes, on average, 12 months of training to become a fully qualified driving instructor and to understand how to teach the learning to drive syllabus, and **REMEMBER**, you don't have dual controls!!

The Driving Standards Agency says the average learner takes 45 hours of tuition with 22 hours of private practice to be ready for the test. So, whilst private practice with a friend or relative is an excellent idea, it's important that any practice supports what the instructor is teaching in the driving lessons. Our aim is for your son or daughter to be **safe**. Driving 'nicely' for you, the instructor or the examiner is **not** what it's about!

Don't forget, **you** are in charge of the vehicle. The Learner is there under your supervision, therefore, you must adhere to regulations in respect of mobile phones, alcohol limits, drugs etc. You can't have a doze whilst the Learner is driving!!

### Consider your own driving

**Are you up to date with the theory?** – times change and it's easy to miss new rules, regulations, signs, procedures etc.? Are you up-to-date with road signs, rules & regulations? Would you pass the Theory Test?

**How's your own driving?** Again, as time goes by it's all too easy to develop bad habits - a bit lax, inattentive and lacking in concentration. '**Do as I say, not as I do**' isn't a really good message to send to the learner. We want the learner to be as safe as possible, and to understand why they should do things in a particular way, so try to ensure you are setting a good example with your own driving and that you are up to date with the theory side of things. Would you pass the Practical Test?

**Ask your instructor about an assessment / refresher session for yourself.** Ask the instructor for a demo drive, so you can see the standard we'd like the learner to achieve. If you lack confidence in some aspect of your own driving, (motorways, night time, city or rural driving, parking!), **now's** a good time to have a chat with the instructor. Half hour assessment with us would be at no cost and, at end of lesson with the learner. If you want to take further training, towards an advanced test, or improvement in specific areas, as your instructor for details.

**Remember, your instructor is very highly qualified, as IAM registered Instructor, has RoSPA GOLD driving standard and is a RoSPA Advanced Driving Trainer, trains potential instructors and holds DSA Fleet qualification to assess and train 'Company Drivers' and can therefore teach Learners, Experienced Drivers for refresher or Advanced tuition and those who drive as part of their job.** >>>Ask for details

Sit in on one or more lessons to see how the instructor helps the learner and how the learner responds. Listen to how the instructor uses questions, praises more than criticises, and so on.

### **Top tips to help make your learner's private practice more effective:**

1. Turn off mobile phones before setting off – yes, even hands free
2. Get an extra, suction-type mirror (like the instructor's), stick to left of interior mirror
3. Use your new mirror. MSM! Don't use mirror on sun visor
4. Get advice from your instructor about the right time to take out the learner
5. Ask the instructor for guidance as to what topics would benefit from practice
6. Speak with the instructor about good places to practise, and places to avoid
7. Use private practice to follow up things covered in the driving lessons
8. Keep a record of your practice drives to show to your son or daughter's driving instructor
9. Follow the instructor's approach as much as you can, try and be patient and calm
10. Arrange specific times for driving practice, and discuss route implications before setting off
11. Contact the instructor for advice, should you need it, prior to next lesson