

## 10 Mistakes Parents Make Teaching Learner Drivers

### **Waiting to teach learners until they get their learners permit**

You've missed thousands of opportunities to explain how and why you made important safety decisions. *"I'm travelling in this lane because..."*

### **Modelling poor behaviour since infancy**

If you speed, drink & drive, use a smart-phone, drive long distances without a break, park in No Standing zones or get angry at other drivers, you're setting the example your children are very likely to follow.

### **Believing a driving instructor can correct 16 years of previous learning with a few lessons**

Expecting a paid driving instructor to create a well formed adolescent driver, particularly with regard to beliefs, values and attitudes in a handful of lessons is an unrealistic expectation.

### **Expecting too much too soon**

Driving is a very complex task that should be broken down into 'chunks'. Learners should become competent at basic tasks like starting and stopping, before moving on to leaving/returning to the kerb etc.

### **Forgetting what it's like to be a learner**

Most drivers forget what it's like to be a learner. Try taking violin lessons before you start to teach your children to drive. You'll soon see how it feels to struggle with the basics.

### **Not doing your homework**

Have you learnt what and how to teach before you start? Try to remember to ask, more than you tell.

### **Cheating in the log book**

Are you making false statements in the log book? What are you teaching your child about following the rules?

### **Getting angry**

Learners don't make mistakes on purpose. Getting angry at the learner (or other drivers) doesn't help.

### **Not a taxi service**

Don't use a learner driver as a taxi service. Use time behind the wheel with a strong sense of purpose.

### **Failing to follow up**

Most parents don't check in to see how their young drivers are progressing after they get their 'Ps'. *"You're not driving like I taught you on your 'Ls'..."* Refer point 2 above. See <http://www.saferplaters.com.au>

