

Manual



IV. PERCEPTUAL DRIVING FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Manual-Lessons and Hints to Work With Your New Teen Driver

Part 4

Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

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Lessons and Hints to Work With Your New Teen Driver

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Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

Lessons and Hints to Work With Your New Teen Driver

- This resource is based on a behind the wheel program that is used by trained driver education teachers.

Purpose :

- to give adults supervising practice driving with a teen driver, an orderly, standard routine.
- To provide objectives and methods similar to those used by in-car driving instructors that may:
 - reduce stressful situations for adult and teen.
 - reduce risk by allowing the teen driver to gradually progress through skill levels and driving environments.

Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

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Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

THE FIRST ROLE MODEL FOR DRIVING

Who are:

- The first drivers that a new teen driver has been exposed to in real life?
- The drivers whose habits (good and bad) have been observed, scrutinized, and absorbed by a teen driver over a period of years?



The First Role Model for Driving

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ROLE MODEL FOR DRIVING

Who is:

- a reflection of you and your driving habits?
- influenced most by your actions?

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Role Model for Driving

Who is:

a reflection of you and your driving habits?
influenced most by your actions?

Your teen driver

ROLE MODEL FOR DRIVING

- New drivers learn by example
- Identify your behaviors
 - habits
 - poor=change
 - good=keep
 - decision making



Role Model for Driving

New drivers learn by example

Identify your behaviors

habits

poor=change

good=keep

decision making


They are watching

They've always been watching




PERCEPTUAL DRIVING PROGRAM

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM



Learn effective and efficient perceptual driving skills



Learn how to make proper responses to problem traffic situations once they are identified and evaluated

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The primary purposes of the Perceptual Driving Program


Learn effective and efficient perceptual driving skills.

Learn how to make proper responses to problem traffic situations once they are identified and evaluated.

Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

Stated Reasons for Collisions

- "I Didn't See"
(" I Wasn't Paying Attention")
- "I Didn't See In Time"
- "I Didn't Think He Would Do It"
("I Didn't Know What to Do")



Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

The average driver who is involved in a collision will usually indicate with one of three responses as to why the collision occurred and these are:

"I didn't see him;" (I wasn't paying attention)

"I didn't see him in time;" and

"I didn't think he would do what he did." (I didn't know what to do)

These three statements indicate most drivers do not know how to use their eyes in an effective manner. And they do not know what to search for in an orderly manner.

TEEN CRASH ERRORS

Teen Drivers are over-represented in crashes involving these driving maneuvers

1. Driving on wet pavements
2. Distractions from passengers
3. Pulling out from a STOP sign
4. Left turns across traffic
5. Keeping a safe space margin between vehicles
6. Negotiating curves
7. Maintaining vehicle control (speeding)
8. Changing lanes and passing

Teenage drivers are over represented in crashes involving the following types of driving maneuvers.

Driving on wet pavements.

Driving with passengers causing distractions.

Pulling out from a stop sign.

Turning left across traffic.

Maintaining a safe distance between vehicles.

Negotiating highway curves day and night.

Maintaining vehicle control (effects of speeding).

Changing lanes and passing.

COMMON ERRORS MADE BY DRIVERS WITH POOR SCANNING HABITS:

- Does not react to problems promptly;
- Fails to maintain space margins;
- Has frequent near misses...is not aware of own speed;
- Is not aware of vehicle about to pass;
- Is easily distracted and fatigued;
- Drives with signals flashing when not needed; and
- Drives with fogged or partially blocked windows.

Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

Common Errors made by drivers with poor scanning habits:

- Does not react to problems promptly;
- Fails to maintain space margins;
- Has frequent near misses...is not aware of own speed;
- Is not aware of vehicle about to pass;
- Is easily distracted and fatigued;
- Drives with signals flashing when not needed; and
- Drives with fogged or partially blocked windows.

PERCEPTION

Can Be Improved With Directed Practice

We can learn to improve the perceptual process

Perceptions improve with training and practice.

- Knowing:
 - What to look for, and what may happen
 - When to look, and where
 - Where to look, and when

Experience and practice will make the process more efficient

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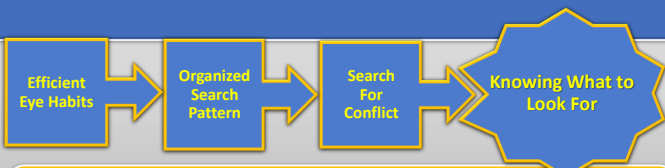
Can be improved with direct practices

We perceive in order to learn, but we can also learn to improve the perceptual process itself. Powers of observation develop as they are trained and used in a directed way. No matter how well we think we can perceive, perceptions improve with training and practice

It takes the mind time to process the incoming information-to organize it, classify it and make it meaningful. In a moving vehicle, time is limited. Therefore, our perception of the traffic scene must be a selective process. We must choose what we will attend to and perceive.

HABITS TO IMPROVE PERCEPTION

Three habits can help improve the ability to perceive traffic events



1. Use **Efficient Eye Habits**
2. In an **Organized Search Pattern**
3. To **Search for Conflict Situations**

Habits for Improving Perception

There are three habits that will help you improve your ability to perceive traffic events. They will form the basis for practice in other sessions.

As a driver, you may already do well at perceiving things around you. Our goal is to help you improve that skill.

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HABITS TO IMPROVE PERCEPTION

• Use a **SYSTEMATIC SEARCH PATTERN.**

• Search in meaningful groups

1. Traffic Controls

2. Highway Conditions

3. Other Users

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Use a systematic search pattern

When there are many things to observe, it is best to deal with them in a few meaningful groups. This aids in the selection process and helps ensure that you do not overlook important clues.

We will classify all things into three major groups.

First search for **traffic controls**,
Second for **highway conditions** and
Third for **Other Users**.

The reason that traffic controls are first, they are well located, easy to identify and universal meaning.

If we are mentally "set" for something, we require less time to perceive it, and we tend to stay alert.

Where and what to look for.

Habits to Improve Perception

Use a search pattern

Search in meaningful groups in an order

1st-Traffic Controls

Warning & Regulatory Signs
Signals-anticipate change
Lane Markings-lanes-direction

2nd-Highway Conditions

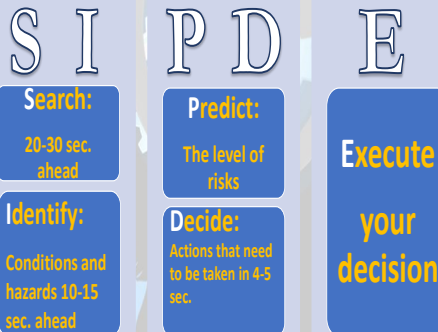
Traction
Obstructions

3rd-Other Users

Vehicles and types
Pedestrians, Cyclists

Search Systems & Processes

SIPDE



Habits to Improve Perception

Search for Conflict Situations

Your projected path of travel is the basic point of reference in the selection of what to perceive as well as for the guidance of your vehicle.

Your primary search must be for those hazards or other user movements that could result in a conflict within your path of travel.

Anything not related to your path of travel should be passed over quickly. Then, you will not be distracted from perceiving the critical events.

A key question you should start asking yourself is: "Will my travel path be clear for 20 to 30 seconds ahead?"

Know Where to Look and What to Look For

These three habits for improving perceptions will result in your knowing what to look for - the real key to the selection process. This is because you will develop a mental "set" for observing what's important.

As you practice these habits, it will help to ask yourself three questions: "What is it?" "Where is it?" and "What is it doing?"

Search Systems & Processes

The SIPDE system-

Short for **Search, Identify, Predict, Decide, Execute** A five step process designed to allow the driver a specific method to search for risks ahead, decide on the amount of risk and act on the conflict as needed.

SEARCH the roadway and the off-road area 20 -30 seconds ahead for information that can help you plan your path of travel. Use a systematic search pattern to gather information. First search the road ahead, then to the sides, then glance in your mirrors.

IDENTIFY conditions 10-15 seconds ahead that could interfere with your path of travel. To identify important information as a driver, you must do more than just LOOK. You must think about what you are looking for.

PREDICT what changes in conditions on or near the roadway could increase your level of risk. As you search see the positions of the vehicles and pedestrians, try to predict what you would do. For example, the car behind you that is coming up too fast might not be able to stop. You need to think – *before that car rear-ends you* – in order to decide to move to another lane to avoid a crash.

DECIDE what action or actions to take (**REDUCE SPEED, INCREASE SPEED, BRAKE OR STEER CLEAR**) 4 to 5 seconds ahead of time to control or reduce risk. Once you have identified a potential threat you can decide how best to minimize the risk of a collision. Keep in mind most situations allow you a choice of actions, such as moving to another lane to avoid a rear-end collision, or taking the ditch to the right rather than taking a head-on hit.

EXECUTE your decision. The final step is to execute the decision you have made. In most instances, executing a decision simply means making a routine maneuver

Habits to Improve Perception

Eye Habits for Vehicle Control

- Picture a safe, clear path of travel to a target on the road...far ahead.
- Usually down the middle of your lane to where you want the car to go.
- Steer to your target.
- Pick a new target and path when the view opens to a new clear area



Eye Habits for Vehicle Control

Projected Path of Travel

The act of driving consists of controlling and guiding a car safely

from one place to another along a selected pathway, with other traffic, on a complex network of highways.

This **path of travel** is that strip of roadway that is wide enough and long enough to permit the safe forward movement of the automobile.

You need to define a safe path of travel toward which to steer.

Therefore, you should get a good picture in your mind of where you intend to go.

Imagine a pathway the width of your vehicle, stretching out ahead of you.

It should be wide enough and long enough to permit the safe movement of your car.

When conditions permit, the projected path of travel should be 20 to 30 seconds in front.

Habits to Improve Perception

EYE HABITS FOR VEHICLE CONTROL-PATH OF TRAVEL

- Multiple Targets
- Targets change with vehicle movement
- Eyes move ahead with the vehicle - Don't stare at one spot



We tend to steer where we look.

Thus, drivers who use the right edge of the roadway or the centerline as a main point of reference, usually end up with poor lane positioning and low-aim steering.

You can use these as a quick reference for your lane position, but you should always get your eyes back to the center of the path.

It is all right to check the lane position of the vehicle by aligning a reference part of the vehicle with the right lane line, but this is only a quick check and not to continuously focus on this reference point.

When going through a curve, a driver will have a tendency to focus their eyes close to the car; and the eyes should be looking through the curve as much as possible. A quick lane position check can be done with the lane line, but the eyes need to get back to the projected path of travel.

Habits to Improve Perception

EYE HABITS FOR VEHICLE CONTROL-PATH OF TRAVEL

- Use multiple targets
- The targets change with vehicle movement
- Eyes should move ahead of the vehicle— and be constantly scanning.
- Don't stare at one spot.

Habits to Improve Perception

EYE HABITS FOR VEHICLE CONTROL-PATH OF TRAVEL

-DON'T STARE at hazard spots!
Always look to the **OPEN** path in the middle of your lane and steer to it.



Habits to Improve Perception

EYE HABITS FOR VEHICLE CONTROL-PATH OF TRAVEL

Don't stare or focus your eyes at hazard spots
Always look to the open path of travel in the middle of the lane and steer to it.

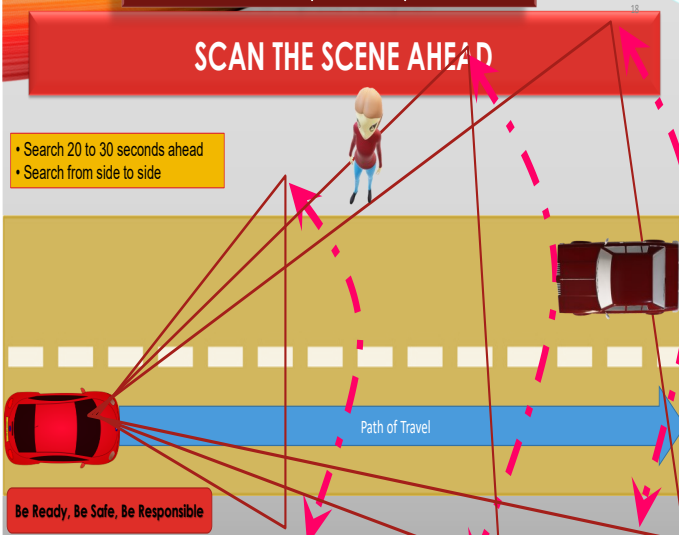
Remember that for most drivers, their eyes will fail them in sudden emergencies, e.g., when entering a curve too fast, their sight distance will shrink and their eyes will focus on the inside of the curve. When attempting to avoid a collision, their eyes will stare at the collision and not look through it.

When encountering a sudden rear wheel skid, their sight distance will shrink and their eyes will focus immediately on the front of the car, making it more difficult to recover from a skid. All of these failures result in a greater risk of having a collision or losing control of the vehicle.

Habits to Improve Perception

SCAN THE SCENE AHEAD

- Search 20 to 30 seconds ahead
- Search from side to side



Habits to Improve Perception

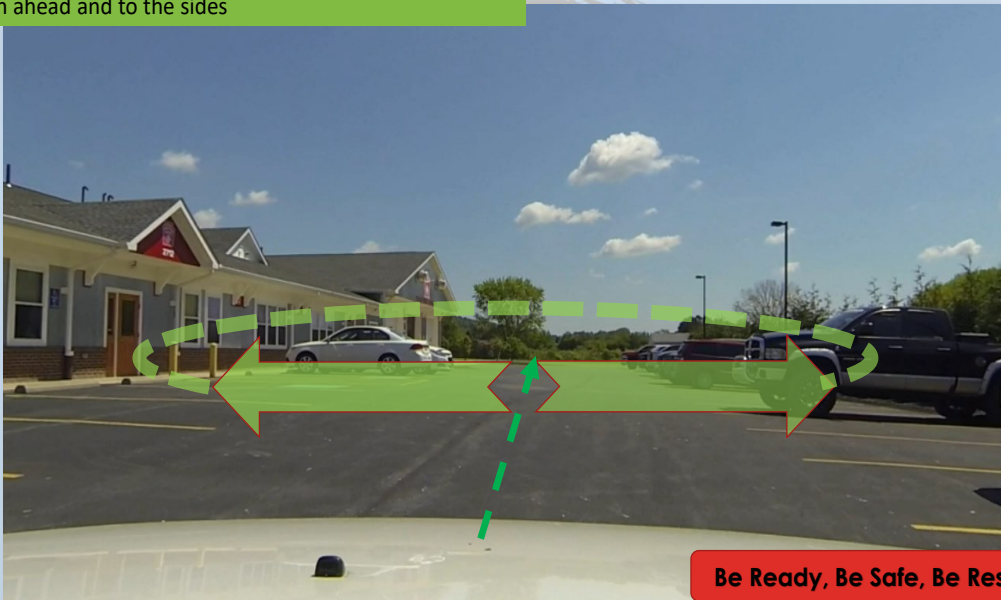
Searching Habits for Identification Scan the Scene Ahead

To the eye habits for guiding your car, we will add the searching habits for identification. Searching is the ability to observe the whole traffic scene in a very short time. We can focus our attention on only one thing at a time for perceiving, but we can shift our eyes quickly from one event to another.

Habits to Improve Perception

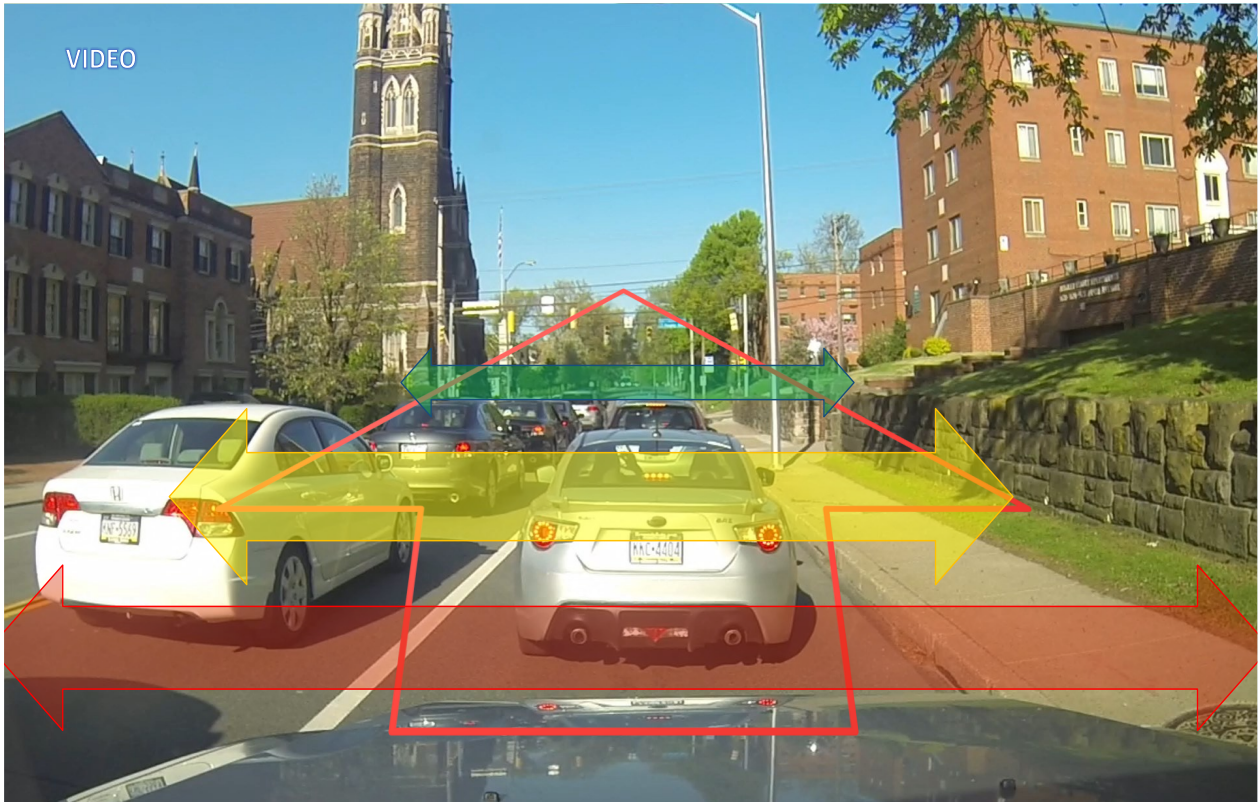
SEARCH HABITS FOR IDENTIFICATION

Search ahead and to the sides



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VIDEO



Search the Scene Ahead and to Sides

Habits to Improve Perception

Scan the Road Surface

- To detect changes in direction
- To assess speed of other cars
- To check for pedestrians between parked cars



Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

Habits to Improve Perception Scan the Road Surface

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Habits to Improve Perception

SCAN MIRRORS AND DASH

Risk From Behind

• Check Inside and Outside Mirrors

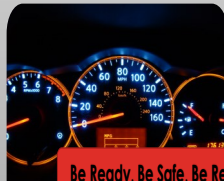
Not every hazard is in front of you. There are hazards approaching from behind and to the sides. Search routine to the rear.



Vehicle Awareness

• Check Dash Regularly

You need to be aware of the car's speed and any mechanical problems while driving. Search routine to your dash.



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Scan the Mirrors and Dash

This is the third visual habit to improve your identification skills.

Check your mirrors the instant you observe a conflict ahead. Also, see if your signals are being heeded.

Make these checks at least every five seconds in urban areas and every ten seconds in rural areas.

Risk From Behind

Check Inside and Outside Mirrors

Not every hazard is in front of you. There are hazards approaching from behind and to the sides.

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Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

This series was produced by the Novice Driver Statewide Program and the IUP Institute for Rural Health and Safety through a grant from the PA Highway Safety Office

Videos and Photos: IRHS/NDSP

Other Photos , 3-D models: Creative Commons and MS online resources

