



share the drive: Parents Matter

TEACHING YOUR TEEN TO BE A SMART PASSENGER TOP 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS

Teaching your child to be a smart passenger may save her life. Older child passengers, age 12 and up, are very vulnerable to crash risk. You need to understand this risk and help your child become a smart passenger.


Here are some helpful tips to keep your teen passenger alive:

1. *Insist on seat belts.* All occupants should buckle up on every trip, every time.
2. *Set a good example.* Don't drink and drive, and obey the speed limit.
3. *Set rules about safe passenger behaviors.* Discuss what's helpful or distracting to a driver.
4. *Monitor your child's travel.* Know where she is going, how she will get there, whom she is with and when she will be home.
5. *Know and trust the driver.* It's not safe for your child to ride with a teen who has less than one year of driving experience.
6. *Understand the attraction to accept a ride.* Teens need to get places *fast*. If someone offers them a ride, they will want to take it. Make sure they have a safe alternative.
7. *Expect peer pressure.* Rehearse ways to comfortably say no to a ride. It might be as simple as, "No thanks; my mom is on the way."
8. *Take the blame.* Let them blame your "stupid" rules for declining a ride. They'll stay safe while saving face with friends.
9. *Create a code word.* Agree on a code word that signals trouble. When you hear the word, pick your child up right away.
10. *Catch your child doing what's right.* Positive reinforcement will help develop a responsible driver and young adult.

Learn more about teen driver safety and see an unabridged version of these tips at www.chop.edu/youngdrivers.

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