



## Helpful Information for Parents/Guardians of Students with Learning Disabilities.

*DO NOT let teaching students with learning disabilities stress you out!*

Talk to your potential new driver and see how they feel about driving before making the decision for them. Some simply know they're not ready to be behind-the-wheel and/or to bare that level of responsibility. Wait until they are confident and ready before obtaining the learner's permit.

Having the student master another psychomotor skill before your new driver gets behind the wheel of a vehicle will demonstrate the student's ability to control the device and their emotions.

- Riding a bicycle.
- Driving a golf cart, go-cart or all-terrain vehicle.
- Navigating a boat.

### **Use simulation as a way of training:**

- Scanning: What do you see? (Objects and observations).
  - Side to side – to simulate intersections.
    - Making sure the students head is turning.
- Use of vehicle controls, like turn signals.
  - Use commands like "turn left" and "turn right" (make sure they look and signal).
- Use of the brake and accelerator.
  - Use commands like "stop" and "go".
    - For dyslexic students begin with "driver's side" and "passenger side".

### **Sign a parent/teen driving contract when the new driver gets his/her permit.**

- Add stipulations as their experience increases.
- Add incentives for practice time.

**Choose a driving school by their comprehensive services, attentiveness, and reputation.**

- Tell the driving school about your new drivers' learning difficulties.
  - Work with the driving school to match your new drivers with the appropriate Instructor/Coach(s).

**Don't be afraid to extend the learner's permit over a year.** You know your new driver more than anyone. Some students with learning difficulties need 2-3 times more practice to understand and comprehend specific skills.

Make sure to plan in advance but continue reassessing your new student's progress.

**Don't forget to:**

- Plan routes ahead of time with wide roads and little traffic.
- Limit practice to 20 minutes to start and then slowly increase each time on the road.
- Try to not use the GPS as this will most likely irritate and/or confuse the new driver. Know the area/surroundings before practicing with the new driver.
- Sometimes low background music can help.
- Turn off cell phones and keep them put away, the student needs your full attention.
- Give direction far in advance.
- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Navigate using street names AND landmarks.
- Ask questions like:
  - Ahead on the right I see a school bus, do you?
  - What does that mean you should do next?
  - What is coming up at the next intersection?
  - Do you feel distracted? If so, by what?
- Praise often.
- Look for consistency in their driving behavior.
  - Mature, calm attitude.
  - Adherence to laws, signs, and signals.
  - Smooth vehicle operation

***Most of all DO NOT be afraid to say "NO".***

***Take it slowly and carefully.***

***Ask for help!***

***Be the example!***