

Becoming a Supervisor - Your role as a supervisor

Your role is to help the learner to:

- Gain as much experience as possible before they get their licence and start driving unsupervised.
- Understand and comply with the road rules.
- Develop safe driving skills, a responsible attitude and courteous behaviour.
- Pass the driving test!

Finding time

Finding a mutually convenient lesson time for you and your learner can be difficult. Plan ahead, find suitable timeslots in your calendars and book-in your lessons. Don't allow other plans to over-ride lesson times, except in an emergency.

Planning the lessons with the learner

For each lesson, prepare objectives and detailed plans. Listen to the learner and cover specific skills they wish to master.

Keeping a record

A written record of each lesson will help you to see what has been achieved and what else needs to be learned. The RAC Learners Survival Guide in the Learn to drive Members pack can help.

Reviewing the lessons

Reviewing the lessons helps the learner to understand what they have mastered and what they need to practice.

Providing feedback

Learning to drive can be stressful and some learners can feel disheartened, so end the session on a positive note by praising the learner for tasks done well.

Being a good role model

Every time you get behind the wheel you should lead by example; drive safely, maintain a positive attitude and act courteously.

Understand the importance of practice

Research has shown that if learners have at least 120 hours driving experience, the likelihood of having a crash after they get their P plates reduces by 35%. It is important that the 120 hours are made up of different experiences.

Each time the learner covers a new skill, revise it at the next lesson and continue to practice it throughout the learning process until they do it smoothly and effortlessly.



- RAC Members can order a Supervisors pack containing a practice checklist to help your learner get experience in a wide range of driving conditions and to keep a record of what your learner has practised.
- Start with easy situations and then move on to more challenging ones.
- Once you have checked off each item, start combining them. For example, a reverse parking in a shopping centre car park or night time driving in wet weather.

Benefits of professional driving instruction

Learning to drive can be very stressful for both the learner and the supervisor, especially at the beginning when so much needs to be covered. Rather than postponing professional instruction until just before the practical driving assessment, it's a good idea to take lessons with a driving instructor at various stages in the learning process.

To help get through the initial jitters of learning to drive, arrange lessons with a professional driving instructor so the learner can master the early steps and learn how to control a car. The instructor will be able to clarify road rules and provide the supervisor with feedback about the skills the learner needs to practice in future sessions of supervised driving.

The supervisor can also ask to sit in on a lesson. This way the supervisor can learn from the instructor how to explain things, how to keep calm and exactly what to teach.

They can also ask the instructor to note down skills and activities they feel the learner needs to practice with their supervisor before their next professional lesson.

Some tips for the learner in order to get the most out of professional instruction:

- Wear appropriate footwear (flat shoes) and suitable loose fitting clothing.
- Let the instructor know if you feel uneasy in a particular situation.
- Review the session with your supervisor and decide what you need to practise together before the next session with the instructor.
- Take a note book and record the points your instructor mentions. Also list any questions you may have for your next lesson.

Find a driving instructor at rac.com.au/learntodrive

