



Safety Corner

Lesson Plan

Topic: Graduated Driver's License

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Colorado Academic Standards, Comprehensive Health Standard 4.10 "Apply personal safety knowledge and skills to prevent, and treat unintentional injury."

Learning Objective: Students will:

1. Understand when they can get an instruction permit,
2. Know what to do before applying for an instruction permit,
3. Know what rules apply to drivers under 18,
4. Determine situations and environments that could lead to unsafe risks that cause injuries.

21st Century Skills & Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness: Self-directions

Materials: Handout (located at end of lesson)

Key Vocabulary: Graduated Driver's License, distractions

Time: 35 minutes

Synopsis

Students vote "with their feet" to respond to questions on Graduated Driver License requirements. Next, students brainstorm the various kinds of distractions that can cause car accidents. Consideration: Adequate classroom space for students to gather in each corner of the room.

Connect with Students (5 Minutes)

Students will:

- understand when they can get an instruction permit,
- know what to do before applying for an instruction permit,
- know what rules apply to drivers under 18,
- determine situations and environments that could lead to unsafe risks that cause injuries.



▫ Key vocabulary.

Graduated Driver License - a multi-stage approach to granting young drivers full license privileges.

distractions - something that makes it difficult to think or pay attention.

- Ask students to show of hands, how many of them have instruction permits. Congratulate them on this accomplishment. If no hands are raised, tell them you hope to be able to congratulate them soon.

- Share with students either your own experience when you received your GDL or when you as a Instructor had a GDL experience with a student or students.

- Tell students you are going to play a game today in which they will vote or answer questions with their feet. Walk to each corner of the room and assign it a letter: A, B, C, or D. Tell them you will ask them a question with four possible answers. They will vote for the best answer by walking to the corner of the room that they believe is the best response.

Safety Instruction/Activity (25 Minutes):

Activity: Ask the following questions. Have students move to the corresponding corners to record their response. Provide a brief response explaining the correct answer.

Questions 1: When can you get an instruction permit in Colorado?

- A. Age 15
- B. Age 15 and a half
- C. Age 16
- D. Age doesn't matter as long as your parents sign an affidavit of liability.



Answer: If you are standing in Corner, A, B, or C, you have the correct answer.

- You can get a permit at 15 if you are enrolled, attending and participating in a state-approved driver education program which includes 6 hours behind the wheel training.
- You can get a permit at 15 ½ after successfully completing a 4-hour driver awareness course such as “Alive at 25.”
- You can get a permit at 16 if you have not taken any classes.
- All new drivers under 18 need a parent/legal guardian signature to obtain a permit.

Question 2: What would you need to do before applying for a driver license?

- A. Hold an instruction permit for at least 6 months, and log 50 hours of supervised driving time.
- B. Hold an instruction permit for one year and log 50 hours of supervised driving time.
- C. Hold an instruction permit for one year and log 60 hours of supervised driving time.
- D. Hold an instruction permit for 6 months and log 60 hours of supervised driving time.

Answer: The correct corner is B. Ten of your 50 hours must be nighttime. You cannot drive with anyone except your driving instructor, parent or legal guardian, or someone appointed by them. And the supervisor must hold a valid Colorado driver license.

Question: You don't have to move to answer this question, but consider why the GDL laws are written this way. Justify what you believe are the reasons for the GDL laws. (There is no one correct answer.)



Question 3: What rules apply to licensed drivers under age 18?

- A. No more than one passenger in the front seat of a vehicle and the number of passengers cannot exceed the number of seat belts.
- B. No driving between midnight and 5:00 a.m. until you have a license for a year.
- C. Same rules as any other driver over 18.
- D. No passengers under 21 until the driver holds a valid license for 6 months and no more than one passenger under 21 until you have a license for at least one year.

Answer: If you are standing in corner A, B, or D, you are all correct! The exceptions to these rules are when you are driving siblings and passengers with medical emergencies. Also, you may drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. if you are driving to or from a school authorized activity, driving to or from work, or if you are an emancipated minor.

Question 4: What are the top three causes of car accidents by teen drivers?

- A. Distracted driving, reckless driving, and rain
- B. Running a red light, tailgating, and drunk driving
- C. Drugs, speeding, and improper turns
- D. Drunk driving, speeding, and distracted driving

Answer: While all of the items here are sources of distracted driving - answer D has the top three. Corner D! Distracted driving, speeding, and drunk driving are the top three causes of car accidents - and not just by teens - but by everyone.



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Instructor Take your regular seat and let's review quickly, what kinds of things cause you to be distracted while driving.

1. Reading or writing
2. Reaching for an item
3. Using vehicle controls (GPS, radio, etc.)
4. Driving while emotional
5. Tired/fatigued
6. Interacting with friends
7. Cell phone

Evaluation: Let's see if we met our learning objectives today. Tell me one way to get an instruction permit. Tell me one thing you need to do before applying for a license. Tell me one rule that applies to drivers under 18. Tell me one distraction that causes accidents.

Sources:

Colorado Driver Handbook, 2015,

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DR2337.pdf> Merriam -Webster

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/distraction>



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Graduated Driver License Cheat Sheet

- You can get a permit at 15 if you are enrolled, attending and participating in a state-approved driver's education program which includes 6 hours behind the wheel training.
- You can get a permit at 15½ after successfully completing a 4-hour driver awareness course such as "Alive at 25."
- And you can get a permit at 16 if you have not taken any classes.
- All new drivers under 18 need a parent/legal guardian signature to obtain a permit.
- Ten of your 50 driving hours must be nighttime.
- You cannot drive with anyone except your driving instructor, parent/legal guardian, or someone appointed by them. And the supervisor must hold a valid Colorado driver license.
- No more than one passenger in the front seat, if you are under eighteen. One exception is when you are driving siblings and passengers with medical emergencies.
- Another exception is you may drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. if you are driving to or from a school authorized activity, driving to or from work or if you are an emancipated minor.

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