



Purpose: To practice avoiding the special hazards in parking lots

Predicted Practice Time: 10 minutes per repeat

Learning Space: Any reasonably busy parking lot. If you choose a very busy lot, go at an off-peak time.

Key Concepts

Serious crashes rarely happen in parking lots, but high numbers of “fender benders” do. In this simple exercise, you’ll ask your young driver to get some parking lot practice and use what happens to have a wrap-up discussion about the hazards of lots.

Advice for Parents

Prior to venturing around the parking lot, have a discussion about parking lot hazards. Be sure to discuss how “who is at fault” is a legal issue. Remind them that most crashes happen when two people make a mistake in the same time and space. They are almost always preventable by the person who is not at fault.

Mention these potential hazards and discuss each one:

- Cars backing out
- People walking
- Dropped packages or trash
- Distracted drivers
- Limited visibility at intersections
- Lack of traffic controls
- Children hidden between cars
- Motorcycles hidden in spaces that look empty
- Shopping carts

Teaching Tips

Ask your young driver to loop around a large shopping center parking lot, taking different routes each time.

Your primary goal is to make sure that your driver learns to see and predict hazards and maintains a speed and awareness that allows him or her to successfully avoid them. Ask him or her to report the hazards he/she sees out loud.

Your secondary goal is to make your young driver comfortable in situations of constant uncertainty, but comfortable in the way that leads to more focus, not paying less attention.

If you can instill the idea – early on – that competence is something to be respected, you will have done your job today.

When you grab handholds or make sudden movements, you make your driver more nervous. When that happens, he or she will make you more nervous. Don't let the anxiety spiral begin. Stay calm.

Driving Checklist

Learning Summary

Tasks can be considered accomplished when they are explained properly or done routinely (a minimum of three times without reminder.)

Task	Accomplished	Needs More Practice
• Can list most types of parking lot hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• When prompted, can explain why crashes happen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Avoids close calls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Maintains a slow and appropriate speed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Crosses uncontrolled intersections cautiously	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Always waits for backing out cars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Always waits for pedestrians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Doesn't intrude on crosswalks in use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Stay's focused on detecting and avoiding hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Time spent on activity in minutes: