

Endangered youths in road traffic What parents can do

Border-crossing, booze, accidents, provocations Prohibitions are of just as little use as it is to show worries. But how, then, should parents react adequately?

Car trips without driving licence are the cause of 12.3% of all severe traffic accidents, hence contribute considerably to heavy accidents of 16-18 year olds. As compared to other severe traffic accidents, the accidents of youths aged 16-18 years in trips without driving licence occur more frequently during the night, and are more often brought about by the youths' own fault.

Parents should by no means pay the fines for their fallible youths. Besides, it is recommendable that youths are responsible for the most part of the costs of their motor vehicle driving lessons.

As parents, you have possibilities of influencing the situation. Utilize them fully – also in the interest of your child.





Risk behaviour / risk competence

Did you know that ...

- ... border-crossings (drugs, sex, violence) occur increasingly in adolescence?
- ... the probability for a boy to die from an accident before his 20th birthday is 4 times as high as for girls?
- ... boys in a group are enticed to transgress their limits?

What can you do?

If your son is out for risks: give him the opportunity to learn how to deal with risks (climbing, go-karting, high-diving, 'Trial', 'Parkour', but also team sports, etc.) — under the direction of experienced experts.

You cannot prevent risk behaviour, but you can impart competence in dealing with risks.



Road traffic

Did you know that ...

- ... the most frequent cause of death in pupils of the age of 13-15 years is road traffic?
- ... in many accidents, alcohol or other drugs are involved?
- ... often also the passengers of a vehicle are affected?

What can you do?

You are a model: Only parents who themselves in traffic conform to the rules, are safety-conscious, and show consideration can convincingly convey messages of prevention.

Talk about dangers in road traffic once and again, and question risky behaviours. Encourage your son to take responsibility for himself and his environment.



"Vagabond trips" *

Did you know that ...

- ... vagabond trips end very often in accidents or with injuries?
- ... you as the car owner are liable, too, with vagabond trips?
- ... every year more than 30 youths are victims of heavy accidents in such vagabond trips?
- ... accidents once and again end fatally?
- ... 90% of the respective drivers are young men?

Most of them misappropriate their parents' or friends' car or motorcycle for use. Parents often play this behaviour down.

* trips with misappropriated car (mostly without driving licence)

What can you do?

Do not teach your son car-driving too early. Youths very quickly feel they are already able to drive. If you have taught your son to drive a car – make it also clear to him that practicing on a parking place is something completely different from real car-driving.

On principle, have confidence in your child – but the car key ready at hand is too great a temptation for some youths – you as the car owner are liable, too.

Teach your child legal basics – passengers are also responsible.

Inform your child as realistically as possible about the potential consequences an inconsiderate moment might have. With a car, you put an incalculable, deadly "weapon" into the hands of a young person. Is he up to it?

Further offers

We offer lectures for parents' associations. You may also motivate the 'Elternbildung' of your municipality to organize an event on this issue. Suggest to your child's school to make risk behaviour the subject of lessons. The project "Speed" provides teaching material and training for teachers.

These offers are financed by the 'Fonds für Verkehrssicherheit' and can thus be offered free of charge.

Advice, information, or tips: 'Netzwerk Schulische Bubenarbeit' NWSB P.O. Box 101 | 8117 Fällanden | phone 044 825 62 92 | www.nwsb.ch www.ist-rasen-maennlich.ch | www.speedtest09.ch | www.bfu.ch | www.roadcross.ch





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