

How to Talk to Your Teen Driver When They Have Tuned You Out

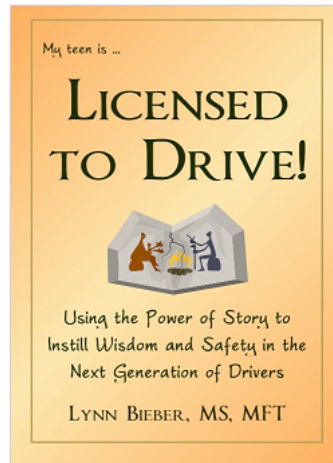
Author of Licensed to Drive! engages and regales your audience:

- Why lectures go in one ear and out the other
- What your teen wants from you above all else
- Why your teen engages in risky behavior
- The 5 major risk factors teen drivers face
- 5 things parents can do to help keep their teen driver safe
- The power of stories to cut through resistance
- The importance of rituals in family celebrations
- What is GDL (Graduated Drivers License) and what does it mean for parents and teen drivers
- Additional resources to support parents in keeping their teen drivers safe

... and much more

When rites of passage are celebrated purposefully, we dip together beneath the surface of daily life and into the richness of spiritual mysteries: life, love, purpose, birth, death, the hereafter. We bond and have fun as we learn from each other.

Rites serve as a social lubricant and encourage cooperation. Through the process of ritual, a state of *communitas* develops between members.



An informative how-to guide for creating a special rite of passage for parents of teen drivers. With this book, parents can create a meaningful, celebratory event that supports the new teen driver and all who attend in driving more safely.

Symbolic actions occurring in a family context advocates a new status and crystallizes new perceptions of the adolescent.

Creating a context of dialogue and story telling deepens family bonds, enhances new driver skills, and provides compassionate role models and mentors.



With over 35 years of counseling experience, **Lynn Bieber** knows how to talk to parents and teens. Writing *Licensed to Drive!* arose from her years of professional experience, fascination with teens, and love of family to encourage them to create a practical, innovative rite of passage.

Lynn and Stan, married for 56 years, raised four children, and have six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Their youngest son was killed in an automobile accident in 1989. His death is a constant reminder of the need to give families all the support they need to help teens become safe and responsible drivers.

***Licensed to Drive!* is available for \$10.00 at <http://LicensedToDrive.info>**

Sample Interview Questions

<http://LicensedToDrive.info>

1. What inspired you to create a rite of passage for new drivers? **(1 minute)**
2. What is a rite of passage? How does it differ from a regular party? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
3. What is an acknowledgement board? Where did you get the idea for it? **(1 minute)**
4. What's the benefit of telling driving stories? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
5. What can a parent expect if they stage a *Licensed to Drive!* celebration? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
6. What have been some of the experiences that parents and teens have had by participating in a *Licensed to Drive!* celebration? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
7. How does this approach help make teens' safer drivers? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
8. What if a family has never done a ritual or celebration like this before? Can they do it successfully? **(1 minute)**
9. What is the most important thing to remember when you take this approach / or use this ritual? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
10. Do teens really care what their parents and family think about them? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
11. What are the main differences between a rite-of-passage celebration and a special event party? **(1 minute)**
12. How many Licensed to Drive! parties have you participated in? **(1 minute)**
13. After signing the Safe Driving Agreement, what are the most important follow up actions for parents to take? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
14. What are the essential differences between telling a story and giving a lecture? **(1 to 3 minutes)**
15. What are the top 5 reasons that put teen drivers at risk (besides that they are new to driving without much experience)? **(1 minute)**

Teen Driving Statistics and Resources

<http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSF2005/810630.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/spotlite/teendrivers.htm>

http://www.ihs.org/research/fatality_facts_2007/teenagers.html

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“A Prescription for Celebration and Sanity”

<http://LicensedToDrive.info>

Licensed to Drive! is a prescription for celebration and sanity. What a wonderful creative idea, celebrating this major event in young people’s lives and at the same time giving them support and counsel through **a rite of passage that can make a life and death difference!**

—Riane Eisler, author of *The Chalice and The Blade* and *The Real Wealth of Nations*

Licensed to Drive! is a unique and useful tool in the arsenal that parents need to manage the education of their teen drivers. Lynn concentrates on **strengthening the ability of parents to communicate** with their children at a critical time. By writing this little gem of a book, she has provided other parents with the benefits of her own hard-won wisdom. It’s a valuable roadmap for action.

—Phil Berardelli, author of *Safe Young Drivers: A Guide for Parents and Teens*

The genius of this book is recognizing the need, creating a party-structure to fill it, and giving you and me a set of clear yet flexible instructions. With this slender book in hand, you’ll be able to plan and hold a Licensed to Drive! party for someone you care about, with a minimum of wasted energy. Bravo!

—Doug Lipman, author of eTips from the Storytelling Coach newsletter.

Don’t hesitate to do this! Share the wisdom and love of family and friends in this important rite of passage that **launches your teens into adulthood.**

—Eileen Piersa, MSOD, MA and Steve Dahl, Certified Family Coaches and Parent Educators, www.WisdomCircles.com

As a high school teacher I see the joy in new driver’s eyes; and I have visited hospital rooms with kids who drove too fast. What a difference it would make if Licensed to Drive! was a part of every driver education program! Our teens would be empowered to be responsible; they’d be celebrated; and perhaps more of them would be alive.

—Professor Jill Raiguel, MS, MFT, Cal Poly Pomona.

Lynn’s unique touch of playful blessing adds richness to the simple extended family meal as a way to transmit generations of experience, wisdom, and concern. Instead of anxious negative messages, the **new teen driver is armed with a new badge of membership** (that keychain) that belongs to a loving community and symbolizes an attitude of safety and responsibility.

—Gail Gabriel, MFT

Lynn’s simple, effective, and fun system of providing a rite of passage for new drivers is clearly laid out in this book. Licensed to Drive! serves both those with deep religious convictions and those who are more secular in their outlook. Having worked with youth for more than two decades of my life I highly recommend using this book to bring supportive and instructive recognition to all new drivers.

—Rev. William E. Nebo, Presbyterian Minister

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Can a Simple Story Save a Life?

Replacing lectures with stories and a party with a rite-of-passage may help safeguard your teen during their crucial first years of driving.

Bellevue, WA., September 8 -- What parent of the new teen driver doesn't have significant worries? The statistics are scary: one out of every five licensed 16-year-old drivers will be in a vehicle crash; over 4000 teen drivers will die of injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes. At the same time that these fears loom, the teenager in question is less and less open to hearing a lecture about how to drive.

Any parent that wants to safeguard their teen as they enter this pivotal time in their young life will welcome the information provided in *Licensed to Drive! Using the Power of Story to Instill Wisdom and Safety in the Next Generation of Drivers* by Lynn Bieber, MS, MFT.

Telling stories is the oldest form of conveying information. It is a basic part of our human DNA to listen to stories and incorporate the messages within them into our thinking. By combining storytelling with a special event that acknowledges their transition to young adulthood, the stage is set to instill messages of love, concern, and driving wisdom. All of these combine to help safeguard the newly licensed teen driver when they are tempted to engage in unsafe driving.

In a similar vein, acknowledging an individual through a special rite of passage makes a far greater impression and stays with the individual and participants far longer than that which occurs with the usual party celebration. A rite of passage elevates the importance of both the honoree and the event. Everyone who participates in a rite enters into a covenant with those present, a covenant that recognizes the importance of the individual to the participants and the change in status of that individual.

Can a simple story save a life? There are many actions parents will want to take to ensure their teen driver is prepared for the responsibilities and dangers they incur when they get behind the wheel. Arming them with the wisdom gleaned from generations of drivers in connection with a powerful rite of passage is one action they should consider making a family rite. *Licensed to Drive!* can help make that happen.

Publication Data: *Licensed to Drive! Using the Power of Story to Instill Wisdom and Safety in the Next Generation of Drivers* by Lynn Bieber, MS, MFT

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