



Student Safety Topic: Texting and Driving Hazards

Statistics

- A driver can only look away from the road safely for two seconds (Journal of Adolescent Health).
- Each day, on average, nine Americans die as a result of distracted driving (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- Approximately 660,000 U.S. drivers use cell phones or other electronic devices while driving at any given moment during the day (Federal Communications Commission).

Prepare Your Child/Student

- Model appropriate driving behaviors.
- Discuss the dangers of distracted driving.
- Consider signing a pledge demonstrating your commitment to practice safe driving.
- Reward teenage drivers for good, safe driving practices.
- Consider phone apps that make it more difficult for teens to text and drive.

Start the Conversation...

- Why is building character important for my child/my student?
- What activities can I do with my child/my student to nurture and build strong character skills?
- How does volunteering build character?
- What information about the dangers of texting and driving can I share with my child/my student?
- What safe driving expectations should I share with my child/my student?
- How can my child/my student encourage other students to practice safe driving habits?

College & Career Readiness Topic: Building Character

What Is It?

Building character involves developing core values, sometimes called “habits of mind,” that help students make better decisions and increase their ability to help others. Examples of core values include trustworthiness, honesty, citizenship, respect, responsibility and perseverance.

Where Do I Start?

Each day is packed with opportunities for character building. The easiest way to encourage good character is to model it. Using good manners reveals that everyone has a responsibility to be respectful to others. Allow your child/student opportunities to learn responsibility. For example, help him/her complete a to-do list or assign tasks for which he/she is solely responsible. Finally, be sure to hold children accountable for their actions. Breaking the rules at home or in class offers an opportunity for discussion about core values.

Teach Character!

Books are an excellent tool for teaching values that build good character. As you read to your child/student each day, ask questions about the choices the characters in the story make and why they made them. Compare the choices to the core values you have already set. If the book character makes a poor choice, work together to list reasons why, as well as what the consequences could be in real life. Be sure to discuss better choices the character could have made. Search #RISEArkansas on social media for more reading tips!

Visit our webpage for additional resources!

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>