Thinking about driving?

Did you know...
- A recent CHOP study found one in three autistic teens without intellectual disability successfully got a driver’s license by age 21.
- Several factors may increase the likelihood of getting a license: driving goals on an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), plans to attend college, paid employment, pre-driving activities like biking, a parent’s prior experience teaching a teen to drive, and a parent’s emphasis on developing independent life skills.

Is driving an option?
- Researchers at CHOP developed a list of questions that may be helpful for determining if driving is right for your child. They recommend discussing these questions with your family and a team of support professionals: [https://www.research.chop.edu/car-autism-roadmap/questions-to-consider-when-determining-driving-readiness](https://www.research.chop.edu/car-autism-roadmap/questions-to-consider-when-determining-driving-readiness)
- Teens interested in driving are recommended to meet with an occupational therapist and discuss a course of action tailored to their strengths and weaknesses.

Do you need help learning to drive?
- Many parents can successfully teach their teens to drive. For clear support from other parents and specialized driving instructors on how and what to practice with learner drivers, visit: [https://www.teendriversource.org/learning-to-drive/driving-with-neurodevelopmental-differences/autism-and-driving](https://www.teendriversource.org/learning-to-drive/driving-with-neurodevelopmental-differences/autism-and-driving)
- Fostering your child's independence by emphasizing pre-driving activities helps them develop important driving skills that they may struggle with such as motor coordination and multitasking.
- Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (CDRS) or occupational therapists can provide specialized training and advice for drivers with autism.

What other transportation options exist?
- Safe transportation is available through paratransit services, public transit, taxis, ridesharing services, biking, or navigating as a pedestrian in your community.
- To learn more about these options, visit [https://www.research.chop.edu/car-autism-roadmap/getting-around-its-a-matter-of-independence](https://www.research.chop.edu/car-autism-roadmap/getting-around-its-a-matter-of-independence)

Follow the Center for Injury Research & Prevention's "Research in Action" Blog to keep up with the latest autism and transportation research! [https://injury.research.chop.edu/blog](https://injury.research.chop.edu/blog)