

The inevitable time with having teenagers wanting to learn how to drive is upon us. We have four 15-year-olds that will be obtaining permits, taking the drivers ed class and putting in many-many hours of practice driving. If you've ever had to teach a teenager to drive, you know this painstaking process is filled with lots instructions that are sometimes met with resistance. There may even be some laughter, possibly some tears and many exclamations of, "hit the brakes" in the process. It can be tough on us as parents and our kids too. On one hand, we're excited to be a part of this rite of passage; but on the other, we worry about their safety.

One of the goals at Collins Home is to provide as many age appropriate life skills as we can for our children in the time they are with us. We may only have them for a year but in that year, he/she will have all their medical and dental needs met, work with a licensed counselor, attend church as a family, learn how to get along with others, start learning to do their own laundry, make their bed and pick up after themselves, etc.

With our teenagers, we do all the above, but we also increase our efforts to learn 'who' and 'what' they want to be when they reach adulthood. Unfortunately, many of them have never thought past surviving the day. To them having a career, a vocation or attending college is reserved for rich kids only. When you've spent most of your life just trying to survive, the future can be a foreign concept and a long way off. When we are able to peel back some of the layers of hurt and resentment to help them realize how valuable, precious and cherished they are, it is amazing to watch them grow and develop as pre-adults and get a glimpse into what their personality will be like down the road. Especially, when they actually start to believe in themselves. Over the next few weeks, we hope to enroll each of our teens in a drivers ed class; the cost is over \$300 each. If you're interested in sponsoring a teen to drive, please give Christina a call at 864-882-0893. Also, please offer up lots of prayers for our teens and houseparents as they work to achieve this milestone.