

# TRANSPORTATION

## How to Use *Ready, Set, Fly!*

Parents and youth can easily select the level of each activity, according to the youth’s age, that will be most helpful to the youth’s life skill growth. The difficulty of each activity is rated using the following scale:

<b>Level 1</b> is for youth ages 8-10 years
<b>Level 2</b> is for youth ages 11-14 years
<b>Level 3</b> is for youth ages 15-18 years
<b>Level 4</b> is for youth ages 19 and older

As a guide for parents and/or child welfare professionals, *Ready, Set, Fly!* offers many suggestions for creative life skills activities to help youth reach their life skill goals. Often just reading about these activities will give parents ideas to create their own activities, which may better fit their child’s needs.

### **What is a Teachable Moment?**

In the course of daily life, opportunities appear to guide a youth’s life skill development. Often these occur when the youth wants, needs, or shows interest in something. The parent then invites the youth to engage in learning. Parents may also “create” these moments. The key for parents is to develop awareness of teachable moments and use them!

# Transportation

## 1. Getting Around

Knowing how to read a map is important to getting around the neighborhood and avoiding getting lost. Have younger children notice landmarks such as street signs and buildings.

**Level: 1** Have older youth draw a map from your house to a favorite hang-out. **Level: 2**

## 2. Planning A Route

Have youth develop a route and estimate how long it will take to get to a favorite hang-out based on getting a ride, walking, or riding the bus. If the youth gets a job, discuss the different options for getting there and back. **Levels: 2 3**

### Tip

One way to encourage use of public transportation is to make yourself "unavailable" to drive your middle schoolers or teens in the summer months. Encourage them to find alternative transportation or to walk.

## 3. Using Public Transportation

Taking public transportation can be an important key to independence. When planning an outing, have the youth call the bus or subway department to find out routes, costs, bus stops, etc. **Levels: 2 3**

## 4. Taking The Bus

Take a field trip on the bus or subway. Have the youth pick the destination and show them how to get there on the bus/subway. Let the youth pay the bus fare or purchase the token. **Levels: 1 2** For older youth, have them identify which bus/subway to take, and when to leave the house to make it to the bus/subway stop on time. **Levels: 2 3**

## 5. Taking A Taxi

Many youth are interested in taking taxis from place to place. Have the youth call the taxi company and find out the approximate cost of a trip from home to a favorite hang-out. When the youth has saved the money for the trip, have them call for the taxi and go with them on the trip. **Levels: 2 3**

## 6. Learning About Air Travel

Air travel is increasingly a part of our lives. Take a field trip to the airport and have your youth find the gate and check departure times on the screen. While at the airport, discuss what to do in case of a layover or missed flight. **Levels: 2 3**

### **7. Budgeting For Transportation**

As they say, there are no free rides! One way to demonstrate the importance of budgeting for the cost of transportation is to have youth pay you per mile or a flat rate if they would like a ride to work or a favorite hang-out. **Levels: 2 3 4** If their friends provide rides, encourage youth to help pay the costs of transportation. **Levels: 2 3 4**

### **8. What's Involved In Getting a Driver's License**

An important key to driving is getting a driver's license. Have youth call the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) or take a field trip there. The youth can prepare a list of the steps involved in getting a driver's license (getting a permit, enrolling in driver's education, taking written and behind-the-wheel tests, getting insurance). **Levels: 2 3**

#### **Teachable Moment**

Unfortunately, we often see traffic accidents as we drive with our children. We can use these opportunities to talk about the importance of driving safety.

### **9. Driving Decisions**

Driving is a big responsibility. As you drive your car you are a role model. Talk about driving decisions. Ask youth what decision they would make (change lanes, use turn signal, speed) and why. **Levels: 2 3**

### **10. Costs Of Car Ownership**

As youth become interested in purchasing a car, work with them to make a budget. Make a list of car costs (car, license plates, insurance, maintenance). Share how much you pay for each of these items. **Levels: 3 4**

### **11. Practice For Car Ownership**

As youth become interested in purchasing a car, work with them to make a budget. Make a list of car costs (car, license plates, insurance, maintenance). Share how much you pay for each of these items. **Levels: 3 4**

### **12. Car Insurance**

One significant and ongoing cost of having a car is insurance. Have youth speak with an insurance agent about what influences the cost of insurance (a ticket or accident, good grades, etc). **Levels: 2 3 4**

### **13. Car Repairs**

When you are doing car maintenance, ask young children to come with you to the service station. **Level: 1** For older youth, practice with them what questions you should ask the mechanic when taking the car in for service.). **Levels: 2 3 4**

**Teachable Moment**

Many youth enjoy helping with small aspects of automobile care. Whenever you're washing the car, filling the gas tank, checking the oil and tires, or cleaning the windshield, and your youth says, "Can I do that?" take the time to let them help!

**14. Preparing To Buy A Car**

Buying a car can be tricky at any age. Before setting out to look at cars, have the youth prepare a list of the kinds of questions they'd like to ask the car seller about the vehicle. Ask them to think of one or two people they could take with them when they go car shopping.

**Levels: 3 4**

**15. Practice With Sales People**

Pretend to be a car salesperson. Role-play with the youth so they can get practice asking questions and saying "no". **Levels: 3 4**

**16. Watching The Process**

When you are going to look at cars, have a youth go with you so they can see what the car buying process is like. Have older youth ask a salesperson for a purchase application so they can see what kind of information is required to buy a car. **Levels: 2 3 4**

**17. Dealing With Car Problems**

Not all new and used cars turn out to be good. Ask the youth to find information on what to do if the car is a "lemon" and what is covered under the vehicle's warranty.

**Levels: 3 4**

**Tip**

There are many different places to get information on the cost of a car. Don't forget to check the Internet and Blue Book before purchasing a car.