Mothers Vs Fathers As Learner Driver Supervisors: Time Commitment, Driving Activities And Perceptions Of Risk

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Background

- Parental support critical in GDL systems (Glendon, 2013; Jacobsohn et al., 2012; Williams & Shults, 2010)
- Parents, and other family members, believe that parents should have a strong role (Bates, 2012)
- Parents more likely to be primary supervisors (Bates, 2012; Taubman-Ben-Ari, 2011)
- Mothers appear to take more responsibility for supervision (Goodwin et al., 2010; Scott-Parker et al., 2011)
Key changes

- Minimum age reduced from 16.5 to 16 years
- Must obtain 100 hours of supervised practice
- 1 hour of professional instruction equals 3 hours of private supervision (up to 10 hours)
Method

• Combination of convenience and snowball
• Internet survey
• Open between July 2009 and May 2010
• Approximately 15-20 minutes to complete
Participants

- 116 participants
  - Mothers: 78 (67.24%)
  - Fathers: 38 (32.76%)
- Age: $M = 44.09$, $sd = 8.59$
- Marital status
  - Single: 21 (18.1%)
  - Partnered: 95 (81.9%)
- Income
  - $40,000 or less: 32 (27.59%)
  - $40,001 or more: 84 (72.41%)
First time supervisor

Was this the first time you have supervised a learner driver?

Mothers

Fathers

Yes
No
Primary supervisor

Were you the primary supervisor for this person (most recent person supervised)?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of mothers and fathers who were the primary supervisor. The chart indicates a higher percentage of mothers who were the primary supervisor compared to fathers.](chart.png)
Did the other parent supervise?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of mothers and fathers who supervised.]

- **Mothers**
  - Yes: Approximately 70%
  - No: Approximately 30%

- **Fathers**
  - Yes: Approximately 75%
  - No: Approximately 25%
Hours of supervision
Approximately, how many hours did you supervise them for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mothers</th>
<th>Fathers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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Drove to and from activities the learner would have attended anyway?

Mothers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions

Fathers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions
Drove to and from activities that you would have attended anyway

Mothers

- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions

Fathers

- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions
Drove siblings or friends to or from activities they would have attended anyway

Mothers

- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions

Fathers

- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions
Made special trips for the purposes of practising

Mothers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions

Fathers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions
Deliberately practised with passengers (apart from supervisor)

Mothers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions

Fathers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions
Deliberately practised driving at night

Mothers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions

Fathers
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions
Perception of driving risk

How risky do you think driving is for....

- A learner driver when they first begin
- A learner driver at time of practical test
- A provisional driver on red Ps
- A provisional driver on green Ps
- A fully licensed driver

Fathers
Mothers

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Conclusions

• Many similarities between mothers and fathers
  – Proportion supervising for the first time
  – Primary supervisor of learner
  – Indicating that the other parent was involved
Conclusions (2)

- Many similarities between mothers and fathers in the strategies used to teach their child to drive
  - ‘Normal’ driving
  - Special trips for the purposes of practising
- Mothers more likely to provide more practice driving at night
- Mothers believe driving is more risky than fathers
Further research

• Why does only one parent supervise in approximately 1/3 of situations?
• What role do parents play in the provisional licence stage?
• How do parents provide supervision throughout the learner period?
• Replicate with a probability sample
References

Bates, L. (2012). *The Experiences of Learner Drivers, Provisional Drivers and Supervisors with Graduated Driver Licensing in Two Australian Jurisdictions*. (PhD), University of Technology, Brisbane.


Thank you
Questions?

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