



## Driving on the Right Side of the Road Safety Lessons for K-12

### 2015 DRSR Instructional Materials

**[WWW.DRSR.INFO](http://WWW.DRSR.INFO)**

A wide variety of materials have been developed through collaboration with experienced, certified teachers to help teach students in grades K-12 about traffic safety. The traffic safety content is presented in conjunction with social studies, language arts, government, math, health, and other curricula. This brochure overviews the materials currently available.

#### **The Instructional Packet:**

##### **K-3 Lesson Book & *Traffic Be Smart-Stay Safe Centers*:**

The early elementary lessons focus on booster seats and include a puppet script, a "design a booster seat activity," an *I Spy* exercise with the *Our Town* map, and a safe and unsafe matching exercise. All are highly interactive and effective with younger students. A limited number of booster seat posters are available to support instruction.

Also included are fun, colorful activities such as traffic safety bingo, a scavenger hunt, a seek & find, the *Hit the Road* card game (i.e., *Go Fish*), and the *Dangerous Dan* card game (i.e., *Old Maid*).

*Traffic Be Smart-Stay Safe Centers* are designed to be independent center activities. These materials are also adaptable to whole group instruction. Each activity comes with a set of directions for the students to follow. Students use the provided traffic safety information sheets to complete activities such as Traffic Safety Cause & Effect, Comic Strip, Book of Facts, and Alphabet Traffic Safety.

Pocket U.S. Constitutions are also available for use on Constitution Day (September 17th) and as a part of government and social studies courses.

### **Level One (upper elementary):**

The elementary lessons introduce important skills and reinforce traffic safety concepts. Map skills are taught using the *Our Town* map. A traffic safety match up exercise helps students identify safe and unsafe behavior. The TxDOT Land game gives students the opportunity to hone decision-making skills on safety rules. The unit concludes with a city council simulation on an ordinance governing vehicle safety.

### **Level Two (middle school):**

The *Our Town* map is used to study laws related to traffic safety followed by an instructional game called X CAR O. This game combines traffic safety questions with a review of city, county, and state government. Students then have the opportunity to learn about the requirements for obtaining a driver's license in Texas.

### **Level Three (high school):**

Government students evaluate traffic safety proposals, study the purpose of ignition interlock devices, and learn how a bill moves through the state legislature. A review of federalism is provided for students to review local, state, and national traffic laws. A mock legislative hearing of a DUI case is included for students to simulate the judicial process.

### **Our Town Map (all ages):**

This colorful poster shows over 20 examples of safe and unsafe behavior in a model town. The illustration not only teaches about traffic safety and decision-making, but also builds map skills. Class sets are available along with a limited number of rulers. This is an excellent resource to generate discussion with a guest speaker from the municipal courts. The map can also be used to teach about communities and city government.

### **Sponge Book (primary):**

This activity book is designed to bring traffic safety knowledge to students as they wait in the cafeteria line, before the bell rings, or in any other situation where a teacher has to teach a short lesson. The creative Sponge activities include songs, rhymes, chants, and quizzes.

### **Skill Building Exercises – Do Nows for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades:**

The DRSR *Do-Nows* are a set of skill building activities that build upon the content of the DRSR curriculum while helping prepare students for standardized testing. There are currently four sets of *Do Now* exercises, each aligned with the grade level TEKS curriculum for social studies, language arts, and math.

### **Mock Trial Guide:**

Three levels of mock trial scripts are included in this guide to teach students about traffic safety, as well as the legal system and our judiciary, while building verbal presentation skills. The cases include a safety belt violation and a juvenile DUI.

### **State v. Young:**

A mock trial packet involving a texting while driving case for high school students. Contains witness statements and evidentiary exhibits, as well as procedures for conducting a criminal trial and the rules of evidence.

### **Card Games and Lessons:**

Along with the *Dangerous Dan* and *Hit the Road* cards, the DRSR curriculum is supported by a number of other instructional card sets, including Federalism cards and City Government cards.

## Children's Books:

The *DRSR* program offers a series of children's books on traffic safety. These are available on the website, [www.drsrc.info](http://www.drsrc.info), as well as in soft cover and a bilingual "big book" format. Soft cover books are available in English and Spanish. Audio files, available on the website, allow students to listen to the stories as they read along in the book. A limited number of monkey puppets are also available for students to re-enact the stories, all of which feature monkeys as characters:

***Don't Monkey Around With Safety On Field Trips*** – Marigold learns about traffic safety when her class goes on a field trip to a local museum. Students in the story are asked to sign a contract for safe behavior. An unexpected occurrence (losing a hair ribbon) reminds Marigold of the importance of asking adults for assistance. Spanish version: *No hagas payasadas durante paseos escolares: La seguridad no es un juego.*

***Safe-T-Squad*** – Students form a club when they realize there is a lot of unsafe behavior on campus. They become so astute at identifying safe and unsafe behavior that at the end they realize that even adults need reminders. Spanish version: *El esquadron de seguridad.*

***Don't Monkey Around With Safety In A Car*** – Marigold learns about not distracting her parents as they drive, as well as not driving under the influence of alcohol. Spanish version: *No juegues con la seguridad en un carro.*

***Be Careful, Lulu!*** – Lulu's uncle explains to her to be careful, especially in cars, when bicycling, and when skateboarding. Spanish version: *Ten cuidado, Lulu.*

***Safe Not Sorry (sticker book)*** – The characters in this book learn valuable safety rules concerning riding in cars, riding in school buses, riding bicycles, walking, and playing in the neighborhood. Students may place "yes" or "no" stickers on safe or unsafe practices throughout the book. Other various traffic safety stickers included. Spanish version: *Actúa Seguro Sin Arrepentirse.*

***Don't Monkey Around on Your Bicycle*** – When Marigold gets a new bike for her birthday, she knows that it comes with the responsibility to follow all the important safety rules that she has learned. Some friends at school, however, put Marigold's ad-

herence to these rules to the test. The book is supported by a bike safety pledge poster. Spanish version: *No Juegues con la Seguridad Al Pasear En Bicicleta.*

Coming soon: *Don't Monkey Around in the Neighborhood*

## Coloring Book – A Day in Municipal Court:

This publication, available in both English and Spanish versions, teaches students what to expect in municipal court. It reviews the role of the judge, clerk, witness, defendant, and jury. The material is an excellent resource for field trips or when teaching about courts in a unit on city government. A challenging set of rebus puzzles is included in the English version at the end. Spanish version: *Un día en el Tribunal Municipal.*

## Substitute Lesson Plans:

These lesson plans were designed to stand-alone as emergency substitute plans. Four levels, covering kindergarten through high school, are included. Not only do these materials support the acquisition of the Texas ELA and Social Studies Standards (the TEKS), but they simultaneously teach traffic safety.

## Reader's Theater – What If... A Story of Shattered Lives:

This script about the consequences of impaired driving offers middle school students an opportunity to perform and use their voice to depict characters in this tragedy. Suitable for youth groups and clubs, as well as classroom instruction. Spanish version: *Y qué si... La historia de unas vidas rotas.*

## Video, Audio, and Online Resources:

Background material on traffic safety is available from the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center via information sheets, audio files, web pages, and video segments. Please visit [www.drsrc.info](http://www.drsrc.info).

## Online Games (all ages)

These online games teach about traffic safety and our system of government using a fun, interactive method. The games can be accessed at [www.texaslre.org/games/](http://www.texaslre.org/games/).



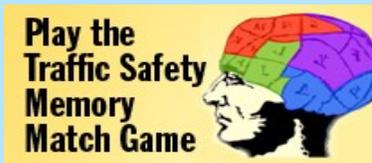
Students read a case, play as the prosecution or defense, and pick a municipal jury.



Students must decide if the question is objectionable or Acceptable by considering the case and the witness on the stand.



This simulation will assist teachers in walking students through the Texas legislative system. Students will be asked to make the best choices as a traffic safety bill works its way through the process to becoming a law.



This game is played like *Concentration* and can be played in English or Spanish. The goal is to make as many pairs of traffic safety cards as you can in the shortest amount of time. The cards shuffle so you can play each level over and over or move on to the next level.



Students must make safe and smart choices to get from one place to another in their community.

### Other Online Traffic Safety Games

Accessible at [www.tmcec.com/drsr/traffic\\_safety\\_games/](http://www.tmcec.com/drsr/traffic_safety_games/)

*Things on Wheels* – Answer the questions about bicycles, inline skating, and skateboarding to win! (grades 1-8).

*Bus Safety Challenge* – Do you know what it takes to stay safe on the bus? (grades 1-8).

*Young Driver Millionaire Challenge* – In the game style of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, this challenge will quiz the knowledge of would be young drivers to see if they have what it takes to be safe on the road (grades 8-12).

*Traffic Safety Quiz* – Test your general knowledge of Texas traffic safety (all levels).

# Resources and Websites

## **Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives (MTSI):**

MTSI is another grant program funded by the Texas Department of Transportation in which municipal judges and court support personnel are encouraged to conduct public outreach programs for schools and civic groups on impaired driving issues. The purpose of MTSI is to raise public awareness of the dangers of impaired driving in local communities. Many of the materials are useful as background information for classroom teachers. For information and resources, go to [www.tmcec.com/mtsi](http://www.tmcec.com/mtsi).

## **MTSI and DRSR Website Resources:**

There are many resources available to teachers and classroom resource persons on the MTSI ([www.tmcec.com/mtsi](http://www.tmcec.com/mtsi)) and DRSR ([www.drsr.info](http://www.drsr.info)) websites. On these sites, users will find facts and statistics, coloring books and activity pages, information sheets, videos, audio files, sample presentations and PowerPoint material, interactive games, and more. The websites are frequently updated and include excellent materials from other traffic safety projects, as well as the DRSR and MTSI program.

## **Sample PowerPoint Presentations:**

Located on the DRSR and MTSI websites, sample PowerPoint presentations give speakers and teachers ideas about what might be included in a classroom or community group talk.

## **Law-Related Education Department:**

The website of the Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas and Law Focused Education, Inc. also offers many resources for teaching about traffic safety and other laws with interactive strategies and interesting content. Many outstanding

activities may be accessed via [www.texaslr.org](http://www.texaslr.org).

## **DRSR Workshops:**

The DRSR program offers teacher training workshops via the regional education service centers, local school districts, statewide teacher conferences, and individual schools. The cost is underwritten by grant funds from the Texas Department of Transportation. Contact [tmcec@tmcec.com](mailto:tmcec@tmcec.com) to set up a local program. Over 400 teachers were trained in all areas of the state in FY14. These teachers will teach children traffic safety and bring municipal court representatives into the classroom to act as a resource person. For a list of upcoming workshops, please visit <http://www.tmcec.com/drsr/teacher-workshops/>.

## **Speakers Bureau:**

TMCEC maintains a list of judges and court support personnel interested in speaking to student and community groups. Grant funding is sometimes available to provide speakers with handouts, maps, rulers, stickers, and other items for distribution to the audience to help reinforce the important traffic safety messages. Call TMCEC at 800.252.3718 or email [tmcec@tmcec.com](mailto:tmcec@tmcec.com) to volunteer as a speaker or to request a guest speaker.

## **Lending Library:**

TMCEC also maintains an extensive library of DVDs covering a wide range of traffic safety issues. DVDs can be loaned to courts and schools free of charge. For more information, please visit [http://www.tmcec.com/drslending\\_library/](http://www.tmcec.com/drslending_library/).

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## About Driving on the Right Side of the Road [WWW.DRSR.INFO](http://WWW.DRSR.INFO)

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-20 year olds. Younger children are often hurt if they do not wear their safety belt, do not obey traffic signals, or fail to wear protective equipment when bicycling or rollerblading. The purpose of the DRSR program is to offer a preventive educational program to encourage responsible decision-making when it comes to obeying traffic laws and to follow safe practices.

The DRSR program has created a series of lessons for social studies classes at the elementary and secondary levels on citizenship, education, and traffic safety. The program is aligned with the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), which all students are tested on in Texas public schools.

The lessons use interactive strategies and online games to teach traffic safety while

studying city, state, and national government, the three branches of government, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Elementary lessons also use traffic safety content to teach language arts and math skills.

Information sheets provide teachers with background information about traffic laws and municipal court. It is recommended that teachers contact local judges, court support personnel, and city prosecutors and ask them to serve as resource persons in the classroom. Resource persons can bring the lessons alive by providing real life or hypothetical examples, accurate descriptions of what the law requires, and serve as positive role models for students.

For more information, please call Liz De La Garza or Ned Minevitz at (512) 320-8274, or e-mail [tmcec@tmcec.com](mailto:tmcec@tmcec.com).

