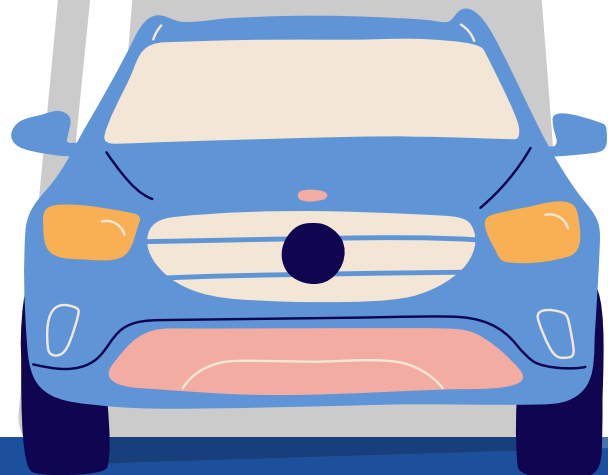


Learning to Drive & Getting on the Road



Helping children with upper limb differences live life without limits

Applying for a licence

Learning to drive is a rite of passage for many teenagers and important for our social and working lives.

We can help you through the maze that is learning to drive!

- Apply for your provisional license good and early. The youngest age is 15 years and 9 months.
- You can start learning to drive at 17, or if you get the higher rate (the mobility component) of PIP, [Click here for guidance about PIP](#) you can start learning at 16 and might be entitled to a lease car through the Motability scheme. [Click here to check your eligibility.](#)



It can take a few months to receive your licence and for the adaptations that are right for you to be completed on a car.

Applying for a licence

- Ticking the box does not mean you have to drive with adaptations and a provisional licence will not specify this, it is to help you have the opportunity to work out how to drive with your instructor and driving assessors so do not be concerned.
- Driving mobility centres, drivingmobility.org.uk, charge about £80 for an assessment {2020} but if you are referred for an assessment by a health professional such as a GP, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist or Orthotist, then there may not be a charge.
- If you have a provisional license by your assessment date, you might get to drive a demo car and try out adaptations which will help with working out what is best for you.
- Without a provisional license your assessment will be to try out the adaptations that might suit you, but you cannot drive on the road.



Adaptions

Modern cars have simplified the need for adaptations, automatic gearboxes, lights and wipers, on/off button ignition, parking breaks all make adaptations less likely. Think carefully about buying a more up to date model as this could save you money and heartache in the long run.

Many adaptations are simple and inexpensive.



Easy release handbrake



Steering ball



Seat belt extender

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Adaptions

Other adaptions might need to be higher tech and so become more expensive to fit and move to use in another car.

For further information and options of wireless keypad controls visit - [Lodgesons](https://www.lodgesons.co.uk)



Steering ball with Bluetooth keypad



Lollipop

Having an assessment is really helpful as there are so many possibilities that can be tailored to your specific needs. If you go directly to a motability dealer before an assessment you could end up spending way more than you needed to.

Your driving assessors can save you time and money!

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Assessment

An assessment will take around an hour and you will meet either a driving instructor or an occupational therapist, or both if you are very lucky!

The report from your assessment can be used as evidence when applying for a Reach bursary. This funding is for members up to the age of 25, and have helped many with the cost of adaptations over the years.

Tom's automatic car was fitted with a steering ball with keypad, partly funded by Reach.



Elizabeth's lollipop control was partly funded by a bursary

"Thank you Reach in supporting my further independence!"

Driving Instructors

Finding a driving instructor who has your specific adaptations can be tricky , [click here for more advice and information.](#)

Both the Disability driving instructors website and your driving mobility assessor should be able help you with finding an experienced instructor who has either an adapted car or who is willing to teach in your vehicle.



When you pass your test, you will be coded with the adaptations you used during your driving test.

- In the future should you wish to drive without these adaptations, you will need to retake the full test, which no one wants to do.
- It is much better to try without any adaptations at a driving assessment – your driving assessment might save you time, money and stress now, and way into the future.
- If you drive a vehicle without the adaptations fitted that are specified by the codes on your licence, you are driving illegally and will be uninsured.

Useful Contacts

- Find your local Driving Assessment centre at www.drivingmobility.org.uk and click 'find a centre'
- Insurance - disabledmotoring.org has resources available to help with finding appropriate insurance
- Ireland – lots of information at Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland – www.ddai.ie
- [RIDC](#) have useful resources that can help those with more complex needs and driving issues

If you have any further questions or queries please don't hesitate to get in touch by email at

reach@reach.org.uk or by phone on

0845 130 6225 or from a mobile 020 3478 0100



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