

Checklist:

1. Learner's permit:
 - book of road rules
 - medical certificate
 - written test
2. On and off-road occupational therapy assessment (not compulsory but highly recommended)
3. Lessons (with modified controls if needed)
4. When the instructor feels you are ready, take the driving test.
5. Drive carefully and considerately.

Handy Phone Numbers

OT DRIVING ASSESSMENTS:

PA HOSPITAL 3240 5008
LOGAN CENTRAL COMMUNITY HEALTH 3290 8900
BRISBANE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES (private) 3352 4042

A comprehensive list (including regional areas) is available by searching for Driver Assessment and Education on the Lifetec website www.lifetec.org.au

HAND (for help getting learners permit) 3856 0281
www.hand.org.au

DRIVING SCHOOLS

RACQ (Robert Gray) 3666 9744

DRIVER EDUCATION & TRAINING SERVICES
Ivor Booker 3281 5331 0402 110 891
Brisbane, Ipswich & Sunshine Coast



Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus
Queensland

21 Tillot St
Dutton Park 4102

PO Box 8022
Woolloongabba Qld 4102

Phone: (07) 3844 4600
Fax: (07) 3844 4601
Em: enquiries@spinabifida.org

March 2012

To drive or not to drive?



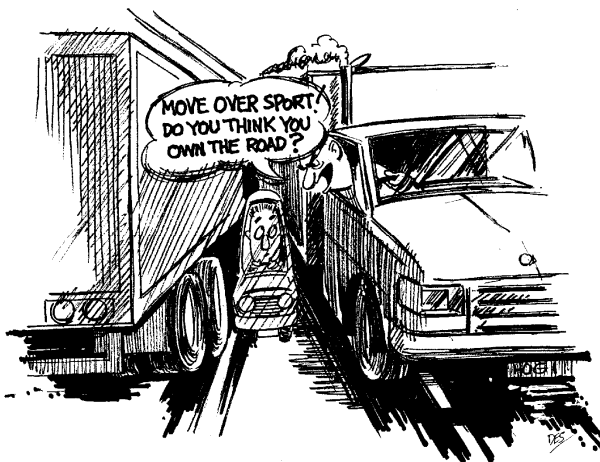
Answering all your questions about getting a driver's licence

How do I get a driver's licence?

Driving is a serious matter. Your safety and that of others is at stake. A car is also a big investment you need to protect. You need to prepare well in order to drive safely.

Because you have spina bifida or hydrocephalus there are a few extra things you need to think about when planning to get a licence. This brochure explains what to do and provides information on where to go.

There are 3 steps in learning to drive:



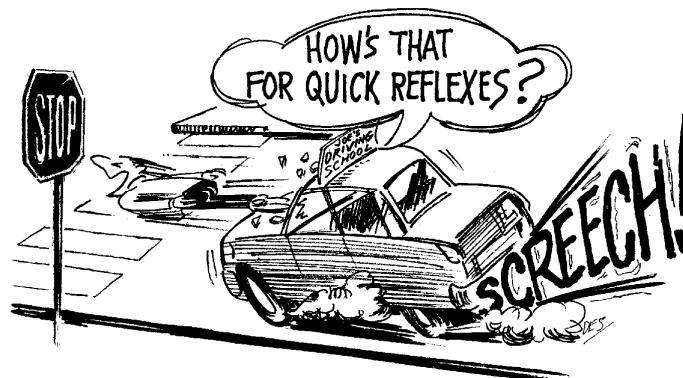
1. Learner's Permit 2. Driving Lessons 3. Driving test

1. Learner's Permit

You will need a **medical certificate** from your doctor. Ask him or her to make it valid for a long time as it can take a while to learn the road rules.

Buy a copy of the **road rules** from the newsagent or download it from the Transport Department website www.tmr.qld.gov.au and learn them all. The booklet is called *Your Keys to Driving in Queensland*. Learning all of the rules can be hard, so it might be a good idea to ask family or friends to help. If you know other people going for a licence you could all help each other.

If you are really having trouble there is a



course run by HAND at Wilston which uses lots of different methods to help you learn. Their phone number is: **3856 0281**

When you feel you are ready, sit the **written exam**. There are 30 questions to answer.

2. Driving Lessons

Before you have lessons we highly recommend that you have an off-road **occupational therapy assessment**, and an on-road assessment. People with spina bifida and hydrocephalus can have **physical, cognitive and perceptual difficulties** which affect driving. The occupational therapist will assess all of these and write a report recommending the best car modifications for you and your perceptual strengths and weaknesses so your instructor knows what to concentrate on during lessons. When you are having lessons the OT will accompany you to perform another assessment. This looks at issues that are only obvious when you are actually driving.

3. Driving Test

You will sit the regular driving test using a car with modified controls if you need it. The driving school organises the test with you and will advise you when they feel you are ready to sit it.