

Returning to the GDE

As many of you will already know we now run a 1 day course that looks specifically at the GDE Matrix. The feedback from this course has been fantastic! When developing the course we were very conscious of the need to develop a course that clearly identified what the GDE is, Why it is necessary and, most importantly, provide the participating instructors with clear ideas and skills to deliver all levels of the GDE.

This was necessary as there is a great deal of misconception relating to what the GDE is and how it can be used in the development of a driver.

The Goals for Driver Education is a 5 level table that suggests the things that could be included in a driver education programme. In particular I want to focus here on the two highest levels which are Social Context and Goals for Life and Skills for Living.

Social context

The highest level of the GDE is called the Social Environment. This relates to how our view of society rules, both formal and informal, influence our decision making. For example laws influence how we behave massively but not always in the direction we may think. Consider for a moment what the drink drive laws in this country really say? Do they say it is unsafe to drink alcohol and drive or do they say that it is OK to have a drink and to drive? Many people interpret the law along the lines of the second statement. Another example is speed limits, many do not see the speed limit as the maximum speed permitted but the minimum speed they should be trying to achieve at all times! These two simple examples show the influence laws have on framing people's beliefs about how they should behave. Whilst every instructor will discuss that alcohol and driving don't mix and that the speed limit should not be seen as a target speed they do so against this type of social background.

Goals for Life and Skills for Living

Of course this interpretation will vary from individual to individual and this is the next level of the GDE – Goals for Life and Skills for living. Within the profession there appears to us that there is a massive misconception about this level in particular. Goals for Life refers to the individuals own concepts and ideals about what they wish to achieve. For example if arriving on time is very important to a driver. Arriving on time is therefore a Life Goal to them but it is a goal that can easily affect the way they drive. For example, by not looking to drive at a safe speed but at the speed limit! Therefore the Skills for Living need to include:

- The ability to manage their time by journey planning to minimise the risk of running late
- The able to manage their time leading up to the start of the journey.

In short they need time management skills!

Of course arriving on time is not always an important aspect for some people, these people tend to be more resistant to time pressures and this would not be such an issue for them. Others already have good time management skills. And this is where another aspect of the GDE comes in, that of Self-evaluation.

Self-evaluation

The aim within the GDE is to encourage a driver to understand how their own interpretation of the Social Environment and their own Goals for Living influence their driving behaviour. This is about them having a greater awareness of themselves, times when say time pressure would influence them and to have coping strategies to avoid or deal with those situations.

Conclusion

The GDE is a great tool that will enable you to take your tuition to the higher levels by helping you to understand how driver's behave post-test and how you can help them to develop the skills needed to make them safer in the future.

We are delivering our 'Implementing the GDE' course in Doncaster on the Wednesday 15th May 2013. Hurry if you want a place as it is filling up fast! If you would like to find out more about our instructor CPD course then follow the link below:

<http://www.edrivingsolutions.com/cpdcourses.aspx>