

Suggestions for fading Bus Safety Device

Rationale: A bus safety device is used during student transportation to keep a student from injuring or endangering him/herself or others. The LRBI rules and regulations require the IEP team to follow LRBI procedures for obtaining parental consent for the use of a bus safety device. Once implemented, the IEP team needs to develop a plan to teach the student to ride the school bus independently without the use of a bus safety device. The following guidelines should provide IEP teams with suggestions for fading the bus safety device.

1. Increase opportunities to practice riding the bus. This can be done during community access bussing – before school and after school – in class role play.
2. During practice opportunities, provide reinforcement for the following behaviors
 - a) Sitting in seat
 - b) A pre-specified set of bus rules
 - c) Facing forward
 - d) Hands to self
3. During practice opportunities reinforce student for staying in his seat for longer periods of time without the safety device.
4. Establish criteria for fading the safety device (# of consecutive bus rides with device without dangerous/aggressive behavior). The device can be faded using a time delay procedure (having the student sit in his seat by self for a specified period of time and then placing the device on the student) or (requiring the student to wear the device for a specified period of time before removing the device. Once device is removed, require the student to sit in his seat for a specified period of time) *exercise caution when fading safety device too soon or while bus is in motion.
5. Utilize a variety of safety devices. The safety device could be faded to a lap belt. Again, establish criteria for fading the safety device (# of consecutive bus rides with device without dangerous/aggressive behavior).
6. Conduct a FBA on the occurrence of problem behavior on the bus. Identifying reasons for problem behavior on the bus will help in identifying appropriate interventions.
7. Staff needs to evaluate the plan and the use of a bus safety device on a monthly basis. Adjustments should be made to the plan based on the student's progress.
8. Bus personnel must be properly trained in the use of the device, including it's emergency release.