



School Bus Safety

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

1. Have your children put everything in a backpack or school bag so they won't drop things along the way.
2. Make sure they leave home fifteen minutes ahead of time so that they can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due. Running can be dangerous.

WALKING TO THE BUS STOP

1. Go to the stop with a young child (or rotate that responsibility with the parents of other children at the stop) and have older children walk in groups. There's safety in numbers because groups are easier for drivers to see.
2. Practice good pedestrian safety along the way. Walk on the sidewalk if there is one. If there is no sidewalk, stay out of the street if at all possible. If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can. Stop and look left, right and then left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at driveways and alleys. Exaggerate your head turns and "narrate" your actions so that your child knows you are looking left, right and left again.

WAITING AT THE BUS STOP

1. Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It's dangerous near traffic.
2. Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus. Your child will then be out of the way of traffic. Have younger children practice taking 5 giant steps to become familiar with what 10 feet means. Have older children estimate how far 10 feet are from various objects.

GETTING ON & OFF THE BUS

1. Make children stay at least 10 feet away from the bus until the driver says it's OK to enter. Children will then be able to see the driver and the driver can see them.
2. If children must cross the street to the bus, remind them to wait for the driver or signal that it's safe to cross. They should cross the street 10 feet (again 5 giant steps) in front of the bus where they can see the driver and the driver can see them.
3. Warn children that if they drop something near the bus, they should NEVER EVER pick it up. Instead, they should tell the bus driver and follow the driver's instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they might not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
4. Remind children to look RIGHT before they step off the bus. Other drivers in a hurry sometimes try to sneak by school buses on the right.
5. Teach your child to secure loose jacket drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
6. Send a written note to the school principal if you wish your child to get off at a stop other than the one to which your child is assigned. The driver isn't allowed to let your child off at another stop without written permission from the principal.
7. If you decide to meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where your child will be dropped off. NOT across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you that they dash across the street and forget safety rules.

RIDING THE BUS

Remind your children to be good bus riders. They should: Talk quietly on the bus. Be courteous to the driver and follow the driver's directions. Keep the Bus isles clear. Stay seated for the whole bus ride.

We want your child to be safe when they travel to and from school. As you help us with these rules, we hope you will see that school bus safety starts at home.