

Bus Safety Tips for Parents

Off the bus:

- Have your child put everything they carry in a backpack or book bag so they won't drop things along the way.
- Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers.
- Make sure they leave home on time (10 minutes before bus arrival) so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due. Running can be dangerous.
- Walk your young child to the bus stop and have older children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Practice good pedestrian behavior: walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk stay out of the street.
- 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 your child knows you are looking left, right and left.
- Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus. The child will then be out of the way of traffic. Have younger children practice taking 5 giant steps to become familiar with 10 feet.
- Warn children that if they drop something they should never pick it up. Instead they should tell the 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.
- If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules. Students should only cross with the bus driver's "okay" signal.
- A note should be sent to the Transportation Office if you will not be meeting your child at the bus stop and your child will be walking home without adult supervision.

On the bus:

- Children should ride quietly, be courteous to the driver and fellow passengers and follow the driver's instructions.
- Children should stay seated during the entire bus ride.
- Children should keep their head and arms inside the bus at all times.
- Aisles should be kept clear at all times.
- Seatbelts should always be worn.
- Book bags and backpacks should be kept on the child's lap.
- Eating and drinking is not permitted on the school buses.
- Children should keep their hands to themselves.