

School Bus Safety:

Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet

DID YOU KNOW?

Children develop the ability to understand and make decisions about their safety at different rates. The degree of supervision they require depends upon the capabilities of the individual child.

In general, students in fourth and fifth grade:

- **Need supervision** as they learn more complicated safety skills
- **Can identify** safe crossings with help and practice
- **Can learn** how to identify traffic and stay focused while crossing the street with help and practice

This Week in School Your Child Learned...



Safe behavior on and near school buses

1. **STAY** on sidewalk, away from the road when waiting for the school bus.
2. **WAIT** until the school bus driver says it is safe to get on the school bus.
3. **BE RESPECTFUL** of the driver on the school bus. Talk quietly and stay seated in your seat.
4. **WAIT** until the bus is completely stopped before getting out of your seat to exit the school bus.
5. **WALK** 5 big steps away from the bus. If you need to cross the street, walk around the crossbar and make eye contact with the school bus driver. Then walk to the far edge of the school bus, stop and look left-right-left and cross the street when it is clear.
6. **ASK** the school bus driver for help if you drop something getting on or off the school bus.

School Bus Safety:

PRACTICE AT HOME!

Safety Message: Children ages 9-10 are still learning what it means to be safe. They should always be aware that they are setting an example for younger children while also proving to you that they will soon deserve independence.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe pedestrian and school bus safety skills with an adult. As your child grows, revisit these safety issues often to make sure he or she is still practicing safe pedestrian and school bus riding behavior.

- **Ask your child to explain to you how to safely wait for a school bus. They should:**
 - **Stay on the sidewalk, away from the road when waiting for the school bus.**
 - **Wait until the school bus driver says it is safe to get on the school bus.**
- **Ask your child what a danger zone is and where they are located in relation to the bus.**
 - **Danger zones are the areas surrounding the school bus where the school bus driver cannot see you – at least 10 feet in front, on both sides, and behind the bus. It is not safe to stand in these areas.**
- **Ask your child to explain to you the proper behavior while on a school bus. They should:**
 - **Be respectful of the driver by talking quietly and staying seated.**
 - **Wait until the school bus is completely stopped before getting out of their seat to exit the school bus.**
- **Ask your child to explain to you how to safely get off the bus.**
 - **Walk to the exit and hold the handrail while exiting the school bus.**
 - **After exiting, walk 5 big steps away from the bus to get out of the danger zone.**
- **Ask your child what they should do if they need to get across the street after they get off the bus.**
 - **If you need to get to the other side of the street, first walk around the crossbar to make sure the school bus driver can see you. Walk to the far edge of the school bus. Look left-right-left for traffic, and look at the driver for a sign that it is clear. When there is no traffic, walk to the other side of the street.**
- **Ask your child what they should do if they drop something while getting on or off the school bus. They should:**
 - **Never run after it or try to pick it up themselves.**
 - **Tell the bus driver, and ask the driver for help.**

Looking at the picture, ask your child to identify the four danger zones around the school bus.

Discuss proper behavior while riding the school bus.

Ask how to safely cross in front of a school bus.



School bus - Thibodaux - Louisiana, self made PRA