

School Bus Safety:

Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet

DID YOU KNOW?

Children's ability to understand and make decisions about their safety changes as they grow and develop.

Students in Kindergarten and First Grade have difficulty:

- **CONTROLLING IMPULSES** and concentrating
- **JUDGING WHEN IT IS SAFE** to cross the street
- **STAYING FOCUSED** on one task, such as safely crossing the road
- **UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES** between safe and unsafe crossings

This Week in School Your Child Learned...



How to be safe on and near school buses

1. **STAY** five big steps away from the edge of the road when waiting for the school bus. Stand on the sidewalk if one is available.
2. **WAIT** until the school bus driver says it is safe to get on the school bus. When the school bus driver says it is safe, get on!
3. **BE RESPECTFUL** of the driver on the school bus. Talk quietly and stay in your seat.
4. **WAIT** for the school bus driver to say it is OK to get off before exiting the school bus.
5. **WALK** 5 big steps away from the school bus. If you need to get to the other side of the street, move around the crossbar and cross in front of the school bus to the outside edge of the school bus, stop and look left-right-left, look at the school bus driver for a sign that it is okay to cross and safely cross when there is no traffic.
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 5-6 are still learning what it means to walk safely. They should always be with an adult while walking to and from the school bus stop.

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

- **Walk** to a real neighborhood school bus stop, or a pretend one at home. Practice safe walking skills.
- **Ask** your child to explain how to safely wait for a school bus. They should:
 - **Stay 5 big steps away from the edge of the road, or on the sidewalk 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 to explain to you what a “danger zone” is.
 - The “danger zone” is the area around the school bus where it is difficult for the driver to see.
 - The “danger zone” is the area within 10 feet from the school bus on all sides.
- **Ask** your child to explain 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 driver says it is ok to get off the school bus before getting out of their seat.**
- **Ask** your child to explain how to safely get off the school bus.
 - **Walk to the exit and hold the handrail while exiting the school bus.**
 - **After exiting, walk 5 big steps away from the school bus.**
- **Ask** your child what they should do if they need to get across the street after they get off the school bus.
 - If you need to get to the other side of the street when you exit the school bus, take 5 big steps away from the door of the school bus, move around the crossbar where the school bus driver can see you. Then, keeping your head held high, cross in front of the school bus to the outside edge. Stop at the outside edge of the school bus and look left, right, left to make sure no cars are coming. Also look at the school bus driver for a sign that it is OK to cross. When it is clear, walk to the other side.
 - Make sure to make eye contact with the school bus driver so that you know that you are seen.
 - Walk around the crossbar (the long metal arm on the front of the school bus), not over or under it.
- **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 school bus driver, and ask the driver for help.**
- **Repeat** the lesson and exercise any chance you get!