

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 Second and Third 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** 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** for the school bus driver to say 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 seated.
4. **WAIT** until the school bus driver says 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 cross 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 7-8 can begin to learn more complicated pedestrian safety tasks. Even though they are older, they should always be with an adult while walking near or around traffic.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe school bus stop and school bus riding behavior with an adult. Remember that skills and knowledge do not always equal behavior. Make sure that your child is ready for the next step in learning how to ride a bus safely by discussing these skills at home.

- **Walk** to their 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 on the sidewalk 5 big steps 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 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, walk around the crossbar where the school bus driver can see you. Cross 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.
 - 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!