

Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

School bus safety starts with you, every morning and every afternoon. Take a few minutes to make sure your kids understand the rules of the road.

Most school bus accidents occur when children are *outside* the bus, and seventy-five percent involve children under the age of nine.

Know the Rules

- Be on time
- Never run to or from the bus
- Stand back from the curb
- Don't push or shove
- Stay in your seat
- Don't yell or shout
- Always obey the driver
- Wait for the driver's signal before crossing
- Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus
- Never crawl under a school bus
- Keep arms and head inside the bus at all times
- Never throw anything outside the bus
- Do not eat, drink or litter in the bus
- Listen to the bus driver's instructions at all times.
- Be polite and say good-bye and thank you when you get off the bus
- When it's time for your stop, stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Get off the bus one by one, holding the railing and without pushing one another
- Cross the street in front of the bus, not behind it. The bus driver will give you a sign when you can cross the street, so wait for that sign!
- Listen carefully when the driver or teacher shows you where emergency exits are

Bus safety rules should be repeated to school-age children at the beginning of the school year as well during the middle and at the end of the school year. These rules cannot be repeated enough in order to ensure a safe bus ride everyday!

Meet the Bus and the Bus Driver

Coordinate with other parents to make sure that an adult is present at the bus stop every day, especially with children under the age of nine. Also, introduce yourself to your child's bus driver so the driver builds familiarity with the important people in your child's life.

Dress for Success (and Safety)

Your kids' favorite clothing may not always be the safest. Drawstrings can catch in school bus doors, playground equipment, fences, and escalators. Remove, shorten, or replace drawstrings with another kind of fastener.

By following simple rules, you can keep your kids safe – before they get on the bus. For more information on school bus safety, visit these websites:

- <http://life.familyeducation.com/safety/school-bus-safety/48170.html>
- <http://www.familyeducation.com/whatworks/item/nogroup-index/0.3002.1-15480.00.html>

School Bus Safety Week is October 18 – 22, 2010