

Lesson Three – Best Bus Behavior

Objective: This lesson will reinforce the safety topics previously taught and add rules for being safe while waiting for the bus and how to avoid or deal with bullying. At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate safe behavior while waiting for the bus
- Report inappropriate behavior to the proper adult
- Know how to avoid bullying behavior on the bus

I. INTRODUCTION

Begin this final lesson with a discussion of the bus rules students have already learned. Next, have the children volunteer their ideas for rules that are important when waiting for the bus to arrive in the morning:

- Stand quietly in line or in a small group.
- Stay at least three steps back from the curb.
- Do not push, shove, “butt in line” or touch anyone else or their things.
- Do not talk to strangers who may approach either on foot or in a car.
- Tell the bus driver or a teacher if someone is not behaving or following the rules.
- Be a good friend to everyone waiting for the bus.
- Continue these rules once you are sitting on the bus.

II. PRACTICE WAITING TO BOARD THE CLASSROOM BUS

Once again, have the children build their classroom bus to practice waiting at a bus stop:

- Instead of lining up to board, position the children at different “stops” in the classroom, 3-4 children per stop.
- One teacher should sit in the driver’s seat of the bus and call groups one by one to board the bus.
- As each group is called, the children should stand in a straight line to the bus “door,” wait for it to “open,” and then get on the bus.
- Once on the bus, students should sit quietly while the other groups board.
- To get off the bus, have students practice walking around the front of the bus and looking both ways to “cross the street.” Stress that a grown-up will likely be waiting to help them but that they should never cross in front of the bus until the safety bar is extended.

III. PRACTICE GOOD BEHAVIOR WHILE WAITING FOR A REAL BUS

You will need parent volunteers for this activity, one parent per group of 4-5 children.

- Depending on the layout of your school’s neighborhood and parking lot, set up bus stops in various locations near the school or along the driveway.

- If possible, use traffic cones to designate each stop.
- Have the children demonstrate good behavior while waiting for the bus.
- The bus should drive from stop to stop and pick up the children.
- After everyone has boarded the bus, it should take them on a short ride to a park or other location for a picnic before they board the bus to return to school.
- If such a location is not available, the bus should make a short loop through the area and return the children to school.

IV. FINAL PROJECT – SCHOOL BUS MURAL

Supplies:

- Roll of butcher paper (yellow if possible)
- White typing paper
- Crayons and markers
- School bus template (below)

Ahead of time, use the template to guide the creation of a large school bus on a piece of butcher paper. Make the bus long enough to include one window for each child.

Have the children draw a self-portrait on a sheet of white paper to put in the windows of the bus. Once all the “children” are on the bus, have the students volunteer things they have learned about the school bus and write them on the side of the bus. Include facts, rules, memories, etc. Hang the bus in the classroom or hallway.

This lesson ends the school bus unit. By this time, students should be comfortable with all aspects of riding a school bus and know how to keep themselves safe and secure while riding.

