

Lesson Two – Bus Safety and Bus Rules

Objective: At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand why safety on the bus is important
- List the proper behaviors for being safe on the bus
- Demonstrate safe bus behavior
- Use seat-belts on the bus (if applicable)
- Exit through the rear door of the bus

I. INTRODUCTION – HOW ARE WE SAFE ON A SCHOOL BUS?

1. In a group, ask students to volunteer what they know about being safe in a car. Answers should include things like using seat-belts or car-seats, sitting quietly, not bothering mom or dad in the driver's seat, not kicking the seat in front of them, etc.

2. Lead topic into discussion about being safe on the bus. Ask students questions such as:

- How is a bus different from a car?
- How is a bus the same as a car?
- What safety rules do we have in a car?
- What rules do we have in the classroom?
- What safety rules from cars and the classroom are also important on the school bus?

Discuss the fact that being safe on the bus is important so that the driver can do his or her job and get them to school or home on time. Have the children add to their list of car and classroom safety rules so they are relevant for the school bus. Rules might include:

- Sit down the entire time the bus is moving
- Face forward – do not turn around toward the back or kneel on the seat
- Do not kick the seat in front of you
- Hold your backpack on your lap or put it on the floor
- Do not yell
- Do not throw things
- Do not distract the driver
- Do not get out of your seat
- Do not throw anything out of the windows

II. PRACTICE SAFETY ON THE CLASSROOM BUS

Build the classroom bus again; this time, students should be able to set up the chairs themselves. Have the children line up to board the bus. Before they get on, they must give a rule for good bus safety. Overlap is okay.

Once the children are all seated on the bus, talk about bus safety drills. Start by having a teacher “break” some of the safety rules they have learned (such as by standing up while the bus is “moving”) and have students call out what he or she is doing wrong.

Next, talk about fire drills and how we have them “just in case” so that everyone knows what to do if there is a fire. Explain that they are going to have a bus safety drill for the same reason.

Ask who remembers what is at the very back of a real school bus. If necessary, remind the children that there is a door there. Have the children line up and exit through the rear “door” of the bus by jumping past a piece of tape on the floor.

III. SAFETY ON THE REAL BUS

Each child should take his or her back pack with them to visit the real bus. Have them board the bus and find a seat, making sure to put their backpack in a safe place next to them or on the floor. If the bus has seat belts, have each child practice using them.

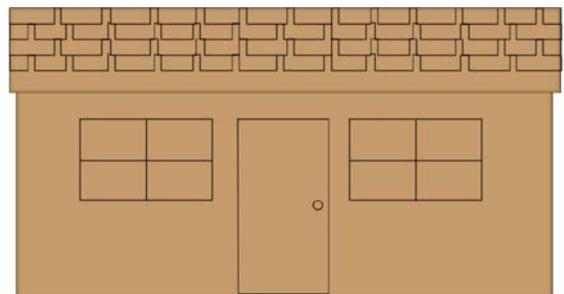
Have the children locate the rear door. Remind them that they should never touch or open the door unless a teacher or the bus driver tells them to do so. A teacher should open the door and help the students line up to exit. Remind them to leave their backpacks on the bus. A second teacher should wait on the ground to “catch” and help each student walk to a safe place on the sidewalk.

After all the children are off the bus, let them practice getting on one more time to get their bags and then get off through the front door. Reassure them that if they ever have to get off the bus through the back door for real, someone will find their bags later.

IV. FINAL PROJECT – ROADS ON THE FLOOR

Supplies:

- Duct tape or masking tape
- Shoe boxes (one per child)
- Markers, crayons, construction paper
- Egg carton school buses from previous lesson



Each child decorates a shoe box to represent a building they know. Possibilities include their house, the school, the post office, the grocery store, the bank. While they decorate, lay out tape “roads” on the classroom floor, covering as much area as possible.

Once all the buildings are complete, each child places their building on a different stretch of road. Using their personal school buses, have the children “drive” around town. When the teacher says “stop,” each child stops their bus and collectively answers a bus safety question posed by the teacher. Examples of questions include:

- How many people can enter the school bus at once? (one)

- What is the right way to sit on the bus? (face forward, feet down)
- Where do you put your bags on the bus? (next to you or on the floor)
- What happens if you fall asleep on the bus and miss your stop? (the driver will find you at the final check and drive you home)

At the end of this lesson, children should understand how to be safe on the bus and also feel secure that there are adults to help them if there is a bus emergency.

