

Safety Sounds

A Monthly Safety Bulletin From SPSG Safety Group

National School Bus Safety Week

October 16th – 22nd

Suggested Activities:

- Have students participate in the National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest
- Read aloud one of the books from the The Magic School Bus series
- This year's safety week theme is "Stay back, stay back from the yellow and black." Write that theme on the board and invite students to use the letters to spell as many words as they can.



School Bus Safety

Twenty-three million students nationwide ride a school bus to and from school each day. Wherever you live, the familiar yellow school bus is one of the most common motor vehicles on the road. Although school buses are one of the safest ways to travel to and from school, injuries do occur

Getting On and Off the Bus Safely

Because getting on and off the bus is the most dangerous part of the school bus ride, the loading and unloading area is called the "Danger Zone." This area—which extends ten feet in front of the bus, ten feet on each side of the bus, and behind the bus—is where children are at greatest risk of not being seen by the bus driver.

Throughout the year, especially at the start of school, children need to be taught how to get on and off the school bus safely. Help children learn and follow these common-sense practices:

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Running to catch the bus is dangerous and can lead to injuries.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the road to a point at least five giant steps ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you and you can see the bus driver when crossing the street. Stop at the edge of the bus and look left-right-left before crossing.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When getting off the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings and bookbags and backpacks with straps don't get caught in the handrails or door.
- Never walk behind the bus.

- Walk at least five giant steps away from the side of the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up, because the driver might not be able to see you.

Riding Safely

Students also need to behave safely during the school bus ride. Basic safety rules include the following:

- Always sit fully in the seat and face forward
- Never distract the driver
- Never stand on a moving bus
- Obey the driver
- Speak in a low voice, no screaming or shouting
- Never stick anything out the window (arms, legs, head, bookbags, etc.)

From NHTSA
Department of Transportation
www.nhtsa.dot.gov

23 Million
Number of students nationwide who ride a school bus to and from school each day

4.3 Billion
Number of miles public school buses travel each year

30
Number of school-aged children fatally injured each year in school bus-related crashes

18,000
Persons nationwide injured in school bus related crashes annually

450,000
Public school buses on U.S. roads each year

More than 50%
Pedestrian fatalities in school bus-related crashes that are children between 5 and 7 years old

87
Number of times safer school buses are than passenger cars, light trucks, and vans

60 to 71
Number of passengers the most popular buses carry

26,000
Average number of school bus crashes annually

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