

## Ways to Teach Appropriate Behavior on the Bus

## Teaching Bus Behaviors

It is imperative that the school brings a bus out to the school grounds. Teachers and Administrators must be present for the training and work in tandem with the transportation personnel.

It is very important for the students to:

- Understand that the school bus is part of the school day
- The transportation personnel and school personnel are all on the same page
- For school personnel to understand why it's important:
  - To not give students food or drink before entering bus
  - To praise students who bring in "Gotchas" from the bus
  - To give booster shots on behavioral expectations:  
(suggestions)
    - September (or start date) bring bus to school
    - October
    - December
    - January- bring bus to school - let students teach
    - March
    - May
  - How could booster shots be given?
    - Videos (See Ranger's Creed on You Tube for an idea)
    - Morning announcements
    - Grade level assemblies
    - Home room 15 minute bulletins
    - Let students develop a PPT or Play

## Lesson Plan Ideas for Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade Students

Schools should begin training children as young as preschool the appropriate behaviors expected while riding on a school bus. Even if the school does not provide daily busing, it is a good idea to teach bus safety for field trips. The earlier these skills are taught, the more it will become "business as usual." This should carry over all the way to graduation.

What should be taught at the preschool- first grade levels?:

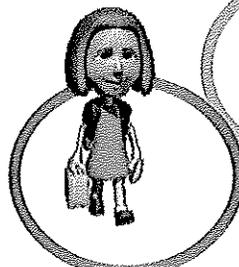
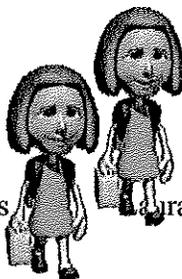
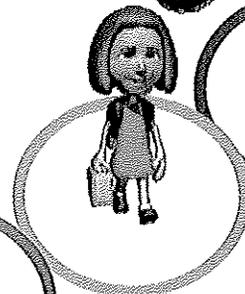
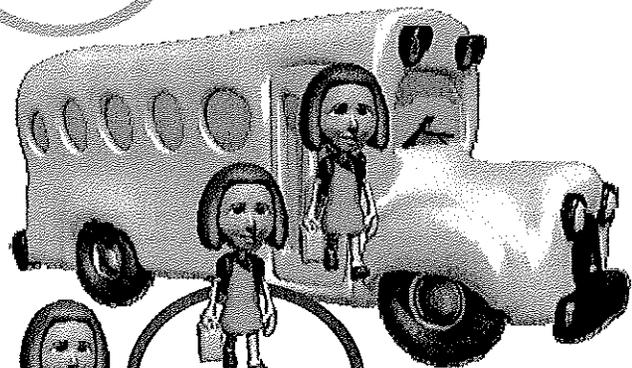
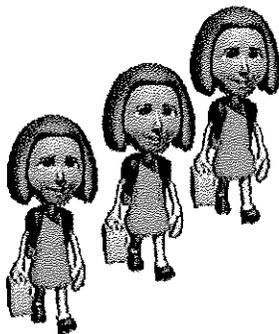
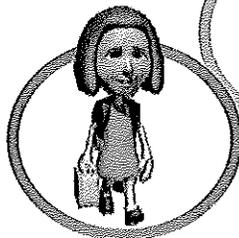
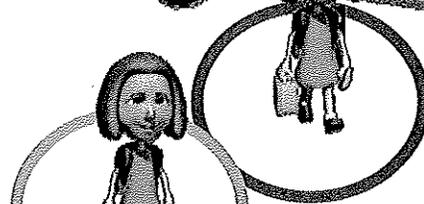
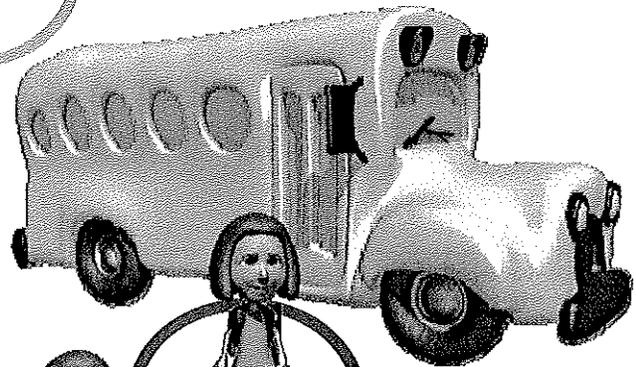
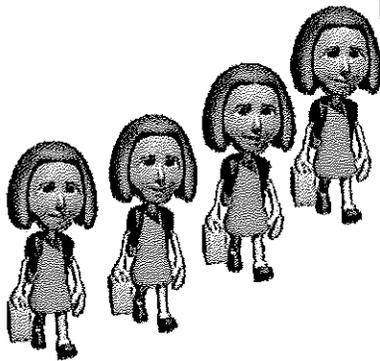
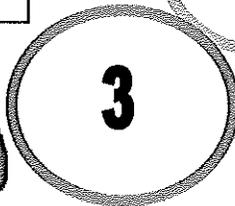
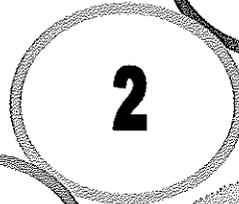
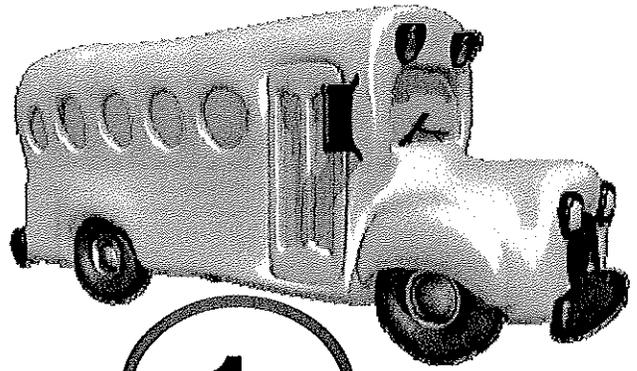
- **Bus Introduction:**
  - Give a tour of the bus
    - Show the mirrors on the bus
    - Show the guard on the front of the bus
    - Show emergency exits
  - Meet the bus driver
    - Give a name that is easy to remember:
      - For example if your last name is Konstantinopolis, the students might want to call you Mr. "K" or Miss Susan based on what you prefer.
    - Have the bus driver stress that their job is to ensure the safety of the students (They even stress this on airplanes now. The flight attendants are not there to serve your drinks and peanuts, they are there to ensure your safety.)
- **Bus Stop:**
  - I would park the bus at one end of the school drive and have the hula-hoops set up (see picture on page 46)
  - Show the students the spacing that they should have at the bus stop (discuss the importance of being far enough back for the bus driver to see them.
  - I would go through all the steps of having the students get on the bus and eventually drive them to the other end of the drive and have them exit appropriately using the hula hoops as exit mnemonics.
- **Boarding the bus:**
  - Teaching the students how to enter the bus by holding on to the handle bar to navigate the mountain high steps.
    - Discuss the importance of having shoe laces tied and

- Waiting for the person ahead of them to move one more step ahead of them.
  - Teach the students to:
    - keep their "bumper" on the seat
    - keep feet off seat in front of them
    - keep belongings in lap inside back pack
- **Riding the bus:**
  - Teach the students that while the bus is in motion the following is very important to ensure their safety:
    - Sit quietly using a 6 inch voice
    - Face forward
    - Keep bumper on seat
    - Hold backpacks on lap
    - Have a signal that means everyone goes to "O" inch voice ready to listen to safety directions
      - Example: bus driver holds right hand in air
- **Exiting the bus:**
  - Pull the bus forward to a spot further down and then have the children practice exiting the bus.
  - Teach the students:
    - to exit just like an airplane. The front seats first and then each row after that
    - they should not stand up until the row in front of them starts to exit
    - take all their possessions with them
    - leave the bus better than they found it
- **Crossing:**
  - Teach the student how to cross in front of the bus
  - Show the students what you can see from the bus window
  - Teach them to never bend over in front of the bus to pick up something
    - If something falls under the bus, teach them a signal to show the bus driver. The bus driver can put the bus in park and have the bus driver exit the bus to retrieve the lost item for early primary students.
    - Discuss what would be important to retrieve and what would not

- If everything is in their backpack it shouldn't be a problem.
  - **Emergency Information:**
    - Students should be taught a signal for emergencies- (example: Hand in the air flashing 5 fingers)
      - Examples of emergencies:
        - Illness
        - Choking
        - Hurt
    - Students should be taught ways to exit the bus in the event of an accident
      - Discuss the importance of only exiting the emergency exit when directed to do so from a police officer, fireman, transportation employee, or school personnel
1. Songs for early primary students using "Piggy Back" music (based on tunes we all know like Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star) to help remember the rules are very helpful:
    - a. <http://www.thevirtualvine.com/WheelsOnTheBus.html>
      - i. This website has many "Piggy Back" songs about school bus safety
      - ii. The music teacher could teach these songs in music class, record the students singing it, and the bus driver could play it on the bus when it looked like the students needed booster shots.
  2. Coloring pages for early primary students about Bus Safety
    - a. [http://www.mast.mb.ca/Risk\\_management/school%20bus%20safety/coloring.htm](http://www.mast.mb.ca/Risk_management/school%20bus%20safety/coloring.htm)
    - b. <http://www.kidscolorpages.com/busstop.htm>
  3. Bus Safety Activities
    - a. Coloring pages, games, songs
    - b. [http://www.first-school.ws/activities/crafts/transportation/school\\_bus.htm](http://www.first-school.ws/activities/crafts/transportation/school_bus.htm)

**Bus Lining Up Procedure to Teach Spacing and Entrance on the Bus:**

- Use Hula Hoops to show spacing
- Show students how to move up into the hula hoops
- This seems like an “over extreme” teaching method
  - We have found that the students can still visualize the hula hoops later once they are removed.



## Lesson Plans for Second-Fourth Grade Students

### Model-Teach-Practice- Catch 'em Being Good

- **Bus Introduction:**
  - Ask the students to identify:
    - The role of the bus driver
    - Correct way to wait for the bus at the bus stop
    - 3-5 behavioral expectations for the bus if already assigned
    - Correct procedures for riding the bus
    - Correct procedures for exiting the bus normally
    - Correct procedures for exiting the bus in an emergency
      - You might do this like a Jeopardy Game or
      - Link to PowerPoint for Jeopardy Game Template
        - <http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/Documents/jeopardytemplate30Q&A.ppt>
      - Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? template
        - <http://www.teachnet.com/graphics/lesson/misc/damon/whowants.ZIP>
      - Hollywood Squares
        - <http://www.teachnet.com/graphics/lesson/misc/damon/squares.ZIP>
- **Bus Stop:**
  - I would suggest using the hula hoops again so the students can visualize the amount of space that should be between each of them (see picture on page 46)
  - Don't just line up chairs at school and pretend it's a bus. Bring a bus out to the school. I would go through all the steps of having the students get on the bus and eventually drive them to the other end of the drive and have them exit appropriately using the hula hoops as exit mnemonics.
- **Boarding the bus:**
  - Teaching the students how to enter the bus by holding on to the handle bar to navigate the mountain high steps.
    - Discuss the importance of having shoe laces tied and
    - Waiting for the person ahead of them to move one more step ahead of them.

- Teach the students to:
  - keep their "bumper" on the seat
  - keep feet off seat in front of them
  - keep belongings in lap inside back pack
- **Riding the bus:**
  - Teach the students that while the bus is in motion the following is very important to ensure their safety:
    - Sit quietly using a 6 inch voice
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    - Keep bumper on seat
    - Hold backpacks on lap
    - Have a signal that means everyone goes to "O" inch voice ready to listen to safety directions
      - Example: bus driver holds right hand in air and flashes five fingers
- **Exiting the bus:**
  - Pull the bus forward to a spot further down and then have the children practice exiting the bus.
  - Teach the students:
    - to exit just like an airplane. The front seats first and then each row after that
    - they should not stand up until the row in front of them starts to exit
    - take all their possessions with them
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- **Crossing:**
  - Teach the student how to cross in front of the bus
  - Show the students what you can see from the bus window
  - Teach them to never bend over in front of the bus to pick up something
    - If something falls under the bus, teach them a signal to show the bus driver. The bus driver can put the bus in park and observe the retrieval before resuming the drive.
    - Discuss what would be important to retrieve and what would not
      - If everything is in their backpack it shouldn't be a problem.

- **Emergency Information:**
  - Students should be taught a signal for emergencies- (example: Hand in the air flashing 5 fingers)
    - Examples of emergencies:
      - Illness
      - Choking
      - Hurt
  - Students should be taught ways to exit the bus in the event of an accident
    - Discuss the importance of only exiting the emergency exit when directed to do so from a police officer, fireman, transportation employee, or school personnel

Ways to give booster shots to early elementary students grades 2-4

Word Search for Bus Safety Booster Kick Off

- <http://itre.ncsu.edu/ghsp/GameWordSearch.html>

Use these safety rules from Robin Padgett (2002) for your Jeopardy, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire or Hollywood Squares Questions:

**1. Be at the bus stop early.**

The bus driver may not see you running for the bus if you are late, you could slip and fall under the wheels.

**2. Wait for the bus in a safe place - away from the road.**

Wait away from the road because a car could hit you if you are too close to the road.

**3. Sit down as soon as possible.**

There may be other people waiting to get on, if it takes too long for everyone to get on cars get impatient and go around the bus. Someone could get hit if this happens.

**4. Stay seated at all times.**

'Back to back' and 'bottom to bottom' take off your backpack and put it in your lap.

**5. Keep hands, arms and head inside the bus at all times.**

A bus is wider than a car, it gets very close to trees and poles, you could be seriously injured if you have any body parts outside the bus.

**6. Please don't eat or drink on the bus.**

You could choke on the food and the driver might not see you.

**7. Listen to the bus driver and follow directions.**

The bus driver's instructions are for your safety.

**8. Leave the bus carefully, using the handrail.**

Hold on to the rail because you could fall.

**9. Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus before crossing in front of it.**

You should be able to see the driver's face, remember if you can't see his face, he can't see you.

**10. Wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the road.**

Your driver will signal you when it is safe to cross.

**11. Look both ways before crossing the road.**

Check the road yourself, the driver may not see everything.

**12. Stay away from the bus if you drop or forget something.**

NEVER go back to pick up something in the road, get an adult to get it for you. If you forgot something on the bus, you can always get it later. The bus driver can't see you if you are too close to the front of the bus.

**More word searches:**

- <http://www.rockingham.ednet.ns.ca/index%20pages/newsletters/bussafe/bussafewordsch.htm>
- [http://www.edhelper.com/puzzles.htm?gclid=CO\\_inZH1548CFRUmawodokykCw](http://www.edhelper.com/puzzles.htm?gclid=CO_inZH1548CFRUmawodokykCw) (Make your own word searches and puzzles)

## Lesson Plans for Upper Elementary Students and Middle School Students Teaching Bus Safety

Choose one student per classroom at the upper elementary level and choose 14-20 students at the Middle School Level to be PBS Bus Safety Leaders

- Choose “alpha” students- the ones others will follow
  - Don’t choose all the “goody two shoes”
- Have the students discuss the following questions: (Adults can guide them to choose the right focus- but it will go best if the students look like they generated the information. See what was taught to students at the early elementary levels and build on those skills.)
  - Where are the places that would be dangerous on the bus?
    - Bus stop
    - Moving in traffic
    - Train crossings
    - Traffic accidents
    - Bad weather
    - Unloading the bus
  - Have this group of students decide ways to teach appropriate behaviors to the rest of the school:
    - Play
    - Video
    - Closed Circuit Public Service Announcements
    - Assembly
    - Poster Safety Contest about Bus Safety
    - Have a bus driver take the students out on a bus tour of a route to make a movie about appropriate bus behavior
      - Students should show the wrong way and the right way
        - Always do the wrong way first and leave the impression of appropriate behavior last in their minds
    - Write books for younger children and showcase these on the morning closed circuit television
- Realizing that this section seems slighted as it is shorter than the previous sections for the primary grades, it is important to note the reason for the vague descriptions above:
  - Almost 100% of the behaviors that occur at the upper elementary and middle school levels occur for peer attention. If the function of most behavior is to gain access to peer attention, then it makes sense that peers should be the ones to design the training.
  - Here’s an example:
    - A group of teachers in a south eastern state wanted to teach the students to be respectful. They came up with the “golden rule” and gave out “golden tickets”. ... (to middle school kids)...it didn’t fly.
    - They got a group of students together who said, well- the “golden tickets” remind us of Willy Wonka and that’s a kids movie. They decided that they should do public service announcements every morning and they went like this:
      - RESPECT: You ‘gotta give it to get it
        - They then proceeded to give examples like:

- All you gentlemen out there, hold the door open for the ladies if you want them to respect you.
- All you ladies out there, watch those four letter words if you want the men to respect you.
- Each morning a group of students had developed mini- 2 minute public service announcements that went out with the morning announcements and were read by someone chosen by their peers who they felt had exemplified the behavior each week.
  - Office Discipline Referrals for Disrespect went down 82% within two months.
  - We have to be willing to build our plans based on the needs of the students.

## Lesson Plans for High School for Bus Safety

Here's the *Good*, the *Bad*, and the *Ugly* about High School students and bus safety:

1. In most suburban areas, as soon as the students turn 16 they will be driving themselves- *Good News- Bad News*
  - a. Less students riding the bus
  - b. More inexperienced drivers on the road
2. In more urban areas, the students either continue to ride the bus due to inability to own a car, or lack of parking space available for student parking- *Good News-Bad News*
  - a. More students riding the bus
  - b. Less students happy about riding the bus
3. In most rural areas, as soon as the students turn 16 they will be driving themselves- *Good News-Bad News*
  - a. Less students riding the bus
  - b. More students who think they are still driving the family tractor over the fields instead of a ton of heavy metal that can cause serious injury or fatalities

Here's the *Ugly*:

They are going to listen better to their peers than they are to you- so choose some alpha students and here's a sample of what you could do:

### ***Sample Lesson Plan on Teaching Bus Expectations to High School Students:***

High School Level

- 1) **Focus for Whole School Assembly: (This is an example - let the students write their own presentation)**

Play CSI theme song- "Who Are You" by the Who available on I-tunes for 99 cents.

Have several key students in costume dressed as *Crime Scene Investigators* - White lab coats with *CSI* on the back (you can use electrical tape to spell it out)- they should have little black bags, gloves, flash lights, etc.

Have a PowerPoint presentation available on a screen so the students can look at it like it's a giant computer screen.

Lead Detective: We have a new crime scene to investigate- everybody gather around the computer....

Everyone: I can't wait...Hope it's a good one....Let's hear it.

Lead Detective: Clicks forward on the giant screen and a bar graph pops up showing how many office discipline referrals were a result of bus referrals. "Wow 73% of all the office discipline referrals came from the bus. This has to be disrupting the school day if so many people are starting their day having a bad day." Let's see if we can investigate what's going on."

Everyone: "I'm with you. Wow. Let's review the video files from the bus and see what's going on."

(previously, a bus driver would have taken these students out on a bus so they could video tape the wrong behaviors:

- Pushing and shoving
- Getting too close to curb when bus is coming
- Dropping trash on floor
- Eating on the bus
- Yelling while bus driver is trying to maneuver traffic
- Throwing things in the bus
- Hitting each other
- Fighting
- Name calling

The crime team will then break down each of the behaviors that show up and discuss what should be done to solve the crime.)

## 2) Objective:

The students will show the wrong way and then the right way to behave on the bus and the reasons behind it. Hearing it from their peers will help the rest of the students key into making changes.

## 3) Input

The students should collect a survey (good skill for them to learn). Crime scene lead investigator: "We took a survey and these are the behaviors that all of you told us you'd like to see change."

## 4) Modeling

The crime scene team will show the way it should look on the bus..."this also could be video taped while the students are out on the bus with the bus driver." Make sure they make comments like - "Wow, I could actually hear the radio on the bus this morning. I feel like today is going to be a good day. I'm not worn out from riding the bus this morning."

Show the bus driver thanking the students for such a pleasant ride. Have the bus driver passing out "gotchas" for appropriate behavior. Show the students putting the "gotchas" in a box for a drawing to eat lunch at a special table with the bus driver and a cool teacher.

#### **5) Guided Practice**

Highlight the new behaviors and then later that week have the students enter and exit a real bus on the school grounds by home room and model the appropriate behavior on the bus. Have the students who presented the play make morning public service announcements about bus behavior.

#### **6) Checking For Understanding**

Develop a PowerPoint (Who wants to be a millionaire, Let's make a deal, Jeopardy, or Truth or Consequences) as a quiz to see if the students can give examples of appropriate behavior.

#### **7) Independent Practice**

Have contests between the buses to see which bus can earn the most "gotchas"- reward the bus that has the most each month by having a dance, ice cream social, free entrance to a game etc. for the entire student body on the bus.

#### **8) Closure -**

This can be a variety of activities, but one I would love to see is some artwork that can be put up around the school on what bus behavior looks like. These would remain as a constant reminder of appropriate behaviors.

Also, check out You Tube and the Ranger Creed "Do the right thing"- it's a great video of how they taught their behavioral expectations to the high school students and something like that would be great.