

School Bus Safety Home Training Lesson

Morris Area Schools provides safety training the first week of school. We are encouraging parents to also provide some additional training at home. As a parent, you are your child's most influential teacher. We are asking that you teach your child about school bus safety. This information will help you explain to your child how to be safe around and on the bus. Spend some time with your child on these points. Explain the reasons why they are important, and go over them again three or four times on different days so that your child will have a safer bus ride when school starts. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bus Safety Guidelines

- 1. Always be ready for the bus at the scheduled time.** Bus times are set to get students to school on time. If a student is late to the stop, and the bus has to wait, the bus will be late to all the rest of the stops and to school. Another concern is that bus riders who are late to stops often don't act safely, and so are in more danger than if they were ready on time.
- 2. Wait until bus is stopped before moving toward the bus and getting on.** Often students get anxious to get on the bus as it arrives, so they run forward while the bus is still moving. This is dangerous because a student could slip or fall in front of the bus.
- 3. After getting on the bus, go to a seat, sit down and stay seated.** Law requires that students be seated while a bus is moving. Students should sit down quickly so that the bus runs on time. If a student is standing when the bus is moving, he or she may get knocked down or around by the movement of the bus. This could cause injury.
- 4. Remain quiet on the bus, so you don't distract the driver.** While the bus is moving, kids often talk, and that is OK unless it gets too loud. Then the driver can't hear important things like sirens or train whistles, or can be distracted by having to pay attention to the kids and miss something important like a stoplight, or a car coming from another direction.
- 5. Do what the driver tells you to do.** The driver is in charge of the bus, and sometimes has to tell students to be quiet, or to sit down, or to wait to get on or off of the bus. The driver is trying to keep students safe, and so kids should do what he or she says.
- 6. Make sure that you get on the right bus - know your bus numbers.** The bus which takes your child to school may be different than the one that they will need to ride after school. Please be sure to let the teacher, bus drivers and your child know what bus they will be riding and which bus stop your child needs to get off at after school. Your child should always know what bus stop they will be getting off at. Town Stops: Most stops are group stops at the corners of the block. Please bring your child to the bus stop before school starts so they are familiar with the stop location and how to get home from there.
- 7. Be ready to get off the bus when it gets near your stop, but don't get up until the bus stops at your stop.** A lot of times, young students get so involved in a conversation or the ride or whatever that they forget that they are on a ride home. They don't watch for their stop, and then when they arrive they aren't ready to pick up their backpack and get off of the bus. This delays the bus and makes everybody else late. Sometimes, the student misses his or her stop, and then the bus has to go back to the stop, and the parents are very concerned.
- 8. After getting off of the bus, walk away from the bus.** Don't stay near it. If you have to cross the street, go at least 5 big steps in front of the bus, and wait until the driver waves for you to cross the street. NEVER GO BACK TO THE BUS AFTER YOU GET OFF OF IT. IF YOU DROP SOMETHING, WAIT UNTIL THE BUS IS GONE, AND THEN GET YOUR MOM OR DAD TO GO WITH YOU TO GET IT.
- 9. The most important instruction on this page is STAY OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE. According to statistics, this is the area where most student fatalities occur. The Danger Zone is the area on all sides of the bus where students are in the most danger of being hit. Children should always be 10 feet from the bus (5 giant steps) at all times and should NEVER go behind the bus. Students should cross in front of the bus so the bus driver can see them. ALWAYS WATCH FOR CARS.**

