

**A Children's School Bus Safety Program**  
**For K-5<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Facilitator Guide**

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# Overview

School bus transportation is the safest form of land transportation. Statistics show it is forty times safer for children travelling to and from school than other means.

However, on average, there are nearly 17 children killed each year in or around their school bus. The most hazardous area is known as the danger zone near the outside the bus. On average, twelve are killed in the danger zone every year.

In almost every accident, several factors contributed to the catastrophe. In almost every case, if the child had acted differently, they might still be alive.

This course does not teach the kids to fear the bus; but rather to respect it and understand its dangers. And the procedures taught in this course also apply to interaction with other vehicles.

Most accidents are caused when a child crosses the street. The second reason is kids running after the bus. The third reason include children walking close to the side of the bus or going close to the front of the bus, sometimes retrieving a dropped item.

There are four safety rules that would have prevented almost every fatality:

- D** – **D**on't be late & never run after the bus.
- O** – **O**n the sidewalk, away from the road. Staying away from the road is the safe place to wait.
- N** – **N**ever go into the danger zones, especially close to the front of the bus.
- T** – **T**ell the driver if you drop something. It is dangerous if you bend down near the front of the bus or climb under the bus to get something you dropped.

This program will teach the children how to be safe in and around their school bus.

Please deliver these programs with passion and the seriousness this subject deserves. Together we can save a life.

# Our Goal

Our goal is to influence the behavior of the children who ride the school bus to make them safer. The four safety rules are each presented several times and we suggest you involve the students in discussing them.

The video run time is 14 minutes but we encourage you to add your support and comments and to facilitate discussions with the children to make the learning interactive. This will help the children learn and remember more because they are adding to the discussions.

This course has a handout with a message to parents that reinforces safe behavior in and outside the school bus. Each child should take one home to their parents and together answer the safety quiz. You can get more handouts by:

- Copying as many as you need. The School Bus Safety Company waives any rights to copyright this handout.
- Print from The School Bus Safety Company website – [www.schoolbussafetyco.com](http://www.schoolbussafetyco.com)
- Buy copies from The School Bus Safety Company. Sold in batches of 50 copies for \$25, plus shipping.

Please present this course at least once per year, preferably at the start of the school year. There are four principle safety practices each child should understand at the end of the program:

**D** – **D**on't be late & never run after the bus.

**O** – **O**n the sidewalk, away from the road. Staying away from the road is the only safe place to wait.

**N** – **N**ever go into the danger zones, especially right in front of the bus.

**T** – **T**ell the driver if you drop something. Never bend down near the front of the bus or under the bus to get something.

# **The Magic Tent, Part 1**

7 minutes

Before you start the DVD, tell the students they are going to watch a show about school bus safety. It is different than the one they might have watched when younger. Ask the students what they already know about school bus safety. Allow them time to provide a number of answers. You may need to prompt them by asking:

- Why is it dangerous to ever run after the bus?
- Does your bus have a crossing gate? What is the crossing gate for?
- Where should you stand to wait for the bus?
- What do you do if you drop something near the bus?

Click on the title to start the show. If you wish, pause the DVD to reinforce the safety messages or add your own comments.

Once finished, ask the students these questions:

- What will you do if you're late for the bus?
- What should you do if you drop something?

Make sure your students understand the four safe practices. Go over the message **D O N T** again.

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**T** – **T**ell the driver if you drop something. Never bend down near the front of the bus or under the bus to get something.

Make **D O N T** letters on sheets of paper to play with the students to reinforce the **D O N T** message.

Break the class into four groups – give each the letters – **D O N T**

Give them time to think and discuss. Then, point to each group and have them shout out loud the meaning.

Take turns pointing to each group and then point to two groups at once. Switch the letters and play again. This will help the children remember how to be safe around their school bus.

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