

Lesson Plan: School Bus Safety Awareness Week

October 19th to 23rd

Grade Level: 2 - 3

Length: 20-30 minutes

Topic: School Bus Safety

Teaching Approach: Students move beyond memorizing bus rules to explaining why the rules matter and applying them to realistic situations.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify key school bus safety features and explain what they help do.
- Demonstrate safe waiting, boarding, riding, and crossing behaviours.
- Explain the “danger zone” and why staying visible to the driver matters.
- Distinguish safe choices from unsafe choices in common bus situations.
- Describe how respect, calm behaviour, and listening to the driver keep everyone safer.

Materials

- School Bus Safety presentation
- Screen/projector
- Optional bus safety stickers or certificates
- Open space for students to practice movements

Lesson Procedure

1. Welcome and Warm-Up

Slides 1 | 1 minutes

Begin enthusiastically:

“Welcome Aboard!”

Ask: “By a show of hands, how many of you ride a bus?”

Allow students to answer.

“Ask can anyone tell me why bus safety is important?”

Pick one or two students to answer.

1. Welcome and Warm-Up

Slides 2+3 | 1-2 minutes

What do you notice?

Show the bus and invite students to notice safety features. Reinforce: everyone has a part in keeping the bus safe.

What do you See?

- Q1: What safety features do you notice?
- A: Rearview mirrors to help the bus driver see around certain areas of the bus
- Stop sign with flashing lights to tell drivers to stop
- Crossing arm to keep riders 10 feet in front of the bus.

- Q2: Why is the bus bright yellow?
- A: School buses are yellow for high visibility and provides contrast, you can see them in the fog, early in the morning when it's still dark and when its raining!

- Q3: What helps other drivers on the road know when children are crossing?
- A: Yellow and Red Flashing lights to let drivers know the bus is slowing down or coming to a stop

Encourage observation and discussion.

2. Waiting for the Bus

Slide 4+5 | 1 minute

Waiting for the Bus

Before You Get On the bus, remember to:

- Arrive on time
- Stand back from the curb
- Wait until the bus stops completely
- Stay in line

Encourage Discussion

Question: Can anyone answer why running toward the bus is unsafe?

Example answers:

- There are areas around the bus where the bus driver can't see you called "Blind spots" and these areas are dangerous,
- You might trip and fall,
- you might drop something important to you and stopping to pick it up might put you in the danger zone.

3. Getting on the Bus

Slides 6+7 | 1-2 minutes

We

- Walk, don't run.
- Use the handrail.
- Take turns.
- Watch your step.

Challenge Question: Why do buses have handrails?

Example Answers: Preventing falls and trips, safe boarding - holding onto the rail while stepping up and down the stairs and aiding mobility for those who need assistance.

*Always use three points of contact

Hold onto both handrails as you step onto the bus.

When it's time to get on the bus, we walk slowly, use the handrail with both hands (three points of contact), and go one person at a time.

Movement Activity:

"The Pretend Handrail"

Have students stand and pretend there are bus steps in front of them.

Say: "Show me your imaginary handrail!"

Have students pretend to hold the handrails and carefully take two or three steps.

Emphasize positive behaviour and praise the group:

"Great job walking safely!"

Have them repeat after you ""Walking slowly and calmly is the best way""

Repeat 3 times

4. Safe or unsafe?

Slides 8 | 1 minutes

Remember no running or pushing when getting on the bus

Sometimes when we run too fast, we aren't looking around us and we could fall, or run into someone else

- Be on time
- No Running
- Stand in line
- No pushing

We shouldn't push each other either, it's important to keep our hands to ourselves so that we don't knock over or hurt one of our friends.

5. Never Walk Behind the Bus + the Danger Zone

Slides 9-11 | 5 minutes

The drivers cannot see you behind the bus, and it is important that the adults around can always see you.

Tell students:

"There are places around a school bus where the driver might not be able to see you."

Point to the image and explain:

"We never go behind the bus."

Have students repeat:

"Never behind the bus!"

- Always stay several giant steps away from the bus
- Follow the bus drivers instructions
- If crossing, always wait for the bus drivers signal

Safety Bubble Activity

Introduce the idea of a **Safety Bubble** around the bus. (Hint on slide 7 we discuss the danger zone)

"The Danger zone is 15 ft around the bus, there is where the bus driver can't see you"

Say:

"A big bus needs lots of space. Let's stretch out our arms and make a safety bubble."

Have students stretch their arms out without touching one another to understand spatial relation.

Reinforce:

"We give the bus lots and lots of space."

6. VIDEO – Meet Transit Terry the Bus Driver!

Slides 12 | 2:56 minutes

8. Crossing Safely

Slides 13| 2 minutes

Title: Crossing in Front of the Bus

Steps:

- 1. Stop.**
- 2. Wait for the crossing arm to engage**
- 3. Look both ways.**
- 3. Make eye contact with the driver.**
- 4. Cross only when signaled by the bus driver.**

Practice Activity: Pretend crossing demonstration.

Use Transit Terry as the cue for the crossing routine.

Students can practice verbally together:

-STOP and wait for the crossing arm/red lights; -LOOK both ways and make eye contact with the driver;

-LISTEN to traffic and cross only when the bus driver signals to;

Try incorporating physical actions to help students remember, stop, look, listen.

Remind students to always follow their own bus driver's instructions.

8. How to sit Safely

Slides 13| 2 minutes

Ask everyone to demonstrate **safe sitting**.

Give each direction one at a time:

- Stay Seated
- Face forward
- Keep Hands and feet to ourselves
- Keep aisles clear – make sure all items are stored securely inside your back pack.
- Don't bring any oversized items that don't fit in your bag
- No Drinking or eating on the bus
- Keep water bottles off of the floors.
- Listen to the driver
- Use respectful language and volume

"Why do we use quiet voices on the bus?"

After responses, explain:

"Quiet voices help the driver pay attention and keep everyone safe."

Have students demonstrate an appropriate quiet voice.

9. VIDEO School Bus Safety Tips

Slide 12 | 1:53 minutes

10. Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down Safety Game

Slide 13 | 2 minutes

Ask simple review questions:

Q1: Should you run toward a bus?

A: No

Q2: Can you walk behind a bus?

A: No

Q3: What should you do before crossing?

A: encourage multiple answers

Q3: Why should you stay seated?

A: encourage multiple answers

Q4: What is the danger zone?

A: encourage multiple answers

Reiterate lesson:

Thumbs up or down:

- Walking safely to the bus: 👍
- Running toward the bus: 👎
- Sitting safely in the seat: 👍
- Standing while the bus is moving: 👎
- Using a quiet voice: 👍
- Going behind the bus: 👎
- Holding the handrail: 👍
- Pushing another student: 👎

Celebrate correct answers rather than focusing on mistakes.

11. Review and closing

Slide 14 | 1 minute

Before we finish today, can everyone stand up and repeat after me:

Teach three actions:

"Always remember to:"

STOP: Everyone freezes.

LOOK: Everyone points to their eyes.

LISTEN: Everyone points to their ears.

Practice together:

"STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!"

Repeat three times, changing the volume or speed to keep it playful.

For example, the final round can be whispered.

10. Celebration and Closing

Slide 14 | 1 minute

Tell students:

"You did an amazing job learning how to be safe around the school bus. You are Bus Safety Superstars!"

If available, hand out **Bus Safety Superstar certificates or stickers**.

Finish with a group cheer:

Teacher: "Safe Riders?"

Students: "READY!"

Repeat once more enthusiastically.

Post Lesson Activities

I Spy – Find the school bus safety objects – classroom print out

Bus Safety Rules – a cut out activity to be done with supervision.

Drawing Contest – “What does School bus safety mean to me?”

Quick Assessment

Assessment should be informal and observation-based. During the presentation, look for whether students can:

- Explain why keeping a safe distance from the bus matters?
- State that they should never walk behind the bus?
- Describe the crossing routine in the correct order?
- Connect inside-the-bus rules to safety for the driver and passengers?
- Can students justify whether a scenario is safe or unsafe?