

Lesson Plan: School Bus Safety Awareness Week

October 19th to 23rd

Grade Level: Pre-K to Grade 1

Length: 10 to 15 minutes

Topic: School Bus Safety

Teaching Approach: Visual, interactive, movement-based,
Focuses on See It-Say It-Do It principals

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify basic school bus safety behaviours.
- Demonstrate how to wait for and board a bus safely.
- Demonstrate safe sitting while riding the bus.
- Explain that they should stay where the bus driver can see them and never go behind the bus.
- Use "Stop, Look, Listen" as a simple safety reminder.
- Recognize safe and unsafe bus-riding behaviours.

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 1-2 | 1-2 minutes

Begin enthusiastically:

"Today we're going to learn how to be **safe bus riders!**"

Ask " By a show of hands, who has ridden a school bus before?"

Ask:

- "What is this (points to image of bus in presentation) called?"
- "What colour is a school bus?"
- "Who drives the bus?"

Allow several students to respond.

Teaching point: Explain simply that the bus driver has an important job. Everyone can help the driver by being a safe rider.

2. Waiting for the Bus

Slide 3 | 1 minute

Show the picture of children waiting safely.

Ask:

"What are these children doing safely?"

Reinforce three behaviours:

- Standing still.
- Wait for the bus to come to a full stop before approaching.
- Keep a safe space between you and the bus.

Have everyone repeat:

"Wait. Stop. Then Go."

"Wait" patiently, let the bus come to a full "stop" and "then go" towards the bus doors.

Add simple gestures for each word to encourage participation.

3. Getting on the Bus

Slides 4 | 1-2 minutes

Explain:

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 handrail and carefully take two or three steps.

Emphasize positive behaviour and praise the group:

"Great job walking safely!"

Have them repeat after you "We walk safely to the bus." Repeat 3 times

Remind students to give friends space and keep their hands to themselves.

4. Getting on the Bus

Slides 5 | 1-2 minutes

"No running or pushing when getting on the bus"

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

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 someone else.

Have them repeat after you:

"Walking slowly and calmly is the best way"

5. Never Walk Behind the Bus + the Danger Zone

Slides 6-8 | 2 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!"

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. The danger zone continued

Slides 7-8 | 2 minutes

Slide 7 Continued

Show students the next two slides that show the danger zone. Explain that bus drivers cannot see students in certain areas of the bus.

Use the image on the next slide to help.

Side 8 Continued

The most dangerous areas are close to the wheels, close towards the back of the bus and directly in front of the bus where the driver can't see past the horizon of the hood.

Highlight the safe walking area and how they should approach the bus.

Explain why the bus driver cannot see them in these areas. ie low visibility, or the driver can't see past objects they may be behind, etc.

7. VIDEO – Meet Transit Terry the Bus Driver!

Slides 9 | 2:56 minutes

8. How to Sit Safely

Slides 10-11 | 2 minutes

Ask everyone to demonstrate **safe sitting**.

Give each direction one at a time:

"We sit flat on the seat."

"Face forward."

"Feet on the floor. " - (or almost on the floor, it's okay if you can't reach)

Praise students as they demonstrate.

Then introduce quiet voices.

Ask:

"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

Explain:

"I'm going to show you something someone might do on a bus. If you think it's safe, give me a thumbs up. If it's not safe, give me a thumbs down."

Use the examples:

- 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, I want to review quickly what we learnt today.

Ask students to answer together:

Teacher: "Do we run or walk?"

Students: "Walk!"

Teacher: "Do we sit safely in our seat?"

Students: "Yes!"

Teacher: "Do we go behind the bus?"

Students: "No!"

Teacher: "Do we use quiet voices?"

Students: "Yes!"

Finish with:

"You already know so much about being safe bus riders!"

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

Sing a long – Wheels on the bus, offered in presentation style and 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:

- Identify walking as the safe choice.
- Demonstrate safe sitting.
- Demonstrate safe boarding.
- Recognize that they should never go behind the bus.
- Demonstrate Stop, Look, Listen.
- Identify safe versus unsafe behaviour during the thumbs-up/thumbs-down activity.