



First Time Riders

School Bus Safety Program



BUZZY BEE PROGRAM GUIDE

Preparation:

- Confirm the date and time for the First Time Rider session with the school.
- Arrange for the school to show the video prior to the bus ride.
- After the video, it's time to go for a bus ride. A teacher *and* a bus instructor will accompany the students on the bus ride.

Instructor/Bus Driver

At the Bus: Review highlights of the Buzzy Bee video before getting on the bus:

- We should ask Mom, Dad or your caregiver to take you to the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes before the bus arrives. We don't want to rush or arrive late.
- We don't want you to be thinking about missing the bus and forget about safety. You could trip or fall or run across the street without looking.
- Remember that the bus driver has other students waiting to be picked up.
- Remind your parents or caregiver that they need to be at the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes early to meet you after school too.
- We should not be playing on or near the street when we are waiting for the bus. We should take 2 big steps back from the road. **Let's take two giant steps back together to see what that looks like. ONE, TWO! Great job!**
- Make sure the wheels of the bus have stopped. Wait for the driver to open the doors before you move towards the bus.
- Remember the **Danger Zones**:
 - Don't go near the **wheels** of the bus.
 - Stay away from the **sides** and **back** of the bus.
 - Keep all your belongings in your backpack.
 - If you drop something on the street or under the bus, leave it there – **never, never, never** go back to pick it up. Tell the driver, your parents or caregiver.
- In the morning, if you have to cross the road:
 - When the bus arrives, wait for the wheels of the bus to stop and make sure the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is out.
 - Look both ways to make sure the cars have stopped and then look at the bus driver.
 - When the driver gives you the signal, look again both ways and cross.

Getting on the bus:

- Line up in a straight row. “Hands to your sides; and ready for the ride!”
- Don’t push or shove other students – and no “stinging” says Buzzy Bee 😊
- Hold the handrail and walk carefully up the steps.
- Say a friendly ‘hello’ to your bus driver and go directly to your seats, sitting with your bottoms on the seat and your back against the back of the seat. Hold your backpack on your lap.

Instructor/Bus Driver

Ask if everyone is sitting properly. Remind the students of the following:

- Please stay seated when the bus is moving and don’t change seats.
- If you would like to talk to someone beside you, do it quietly so the driver can pay attention to the other cars on the road. Don’t turn around or lean over the seat to talk to someone.
- Remember that we should not eat or drink on the bus and save our treats or snacks for home. We don’t want to choke or spill our food as some of our friends may have food allergies. What do you think Buzzy Bee’s favourite snack might be? You got it - HONEY!
- We should always keep our heads and hands inside the bus.

We are now going to go on a short bus ride!

If the school does not have a school bus accessible parking lot, drive to a safe location where you can practice getting off the bus, walking away from the bus and crossing in front of the bus, otherwise, when you return from the ride look for a safe location in the school parking lot where you can practice crossing.

Instructor/Bus Driver

Now, let’s pretend we are on our way home from school.

- You should watch on your way home for something to tell you that you are almost at your bus stop – such as a special house, a tree or even a park. This will tell you that its time to gather your belongings and be ready when the bus stops.

- When we get to our location remember to stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Let the people closest to the front get off first.
- **Remember**, before you get off the bus look to see if your parents or caregiver are waiting for you. If they are not waiting for you, tell the bus driver and stay on the bus. The driver is there to help you. Remind your parents or guardian to be at the stop 5 to 10 minutes early to meet you.
- Walk carefully down the steps holding the handrail.
- Walk away from the bus and out of the danger zone. If you drop something **never** go back to pick it up. Tell your parents or caregiver what happened.

If you have to cross the street:

- Walk **2** big steps away from the bus and then **10** big steps to the front of the bus.
- Look at the driver and watch for them to signal when it is safe to cross.
- Walk to the middle of the street and look both ways for cars or trucks.
- If you hear the driver honk the horn, stop and wait for the driver's signal.
- When the driver signals it is safe, continue the rest of the way across the street and onto the sidewalk or shoulder of the roadway.
- Never cross behind the bus. The driver needs to make sure they can see you and that you cross the road safely.

Practice both crossing when getting off the bus and crossing to board the bus.

Getting back on the bus:

Instructor/Bus Driver

- When the bus arrives in the morning, wait for the wheels of the bus to stop and make sure the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is out.
- Look both ways to make sure that cars have stopped and then look at the bus driver.
- When the driver gives you the signal, look both ways and cross the street.
- Don't push or shove other students.
- Hold the handrail so you don't fall and walk carefully up the steps.

- Go directly to your seat and sit with your bottom on the seat and your back against the back of the seat. Hold your backpack on your lap.
- Stay seated when the bus is moving and don't change seats.
- If you would like to talk to someone beside you, do it quietly so the driver can pay attention to the other cars on the road. Don't turn around or lean over the seat to talk to someone.
- Keep our heads and hands inside the bus. Buzzy says "keep your wings in too" 😊
- Remember, in case of an emergency on the bus, listen to the bus driver, as they will tell you what to do to help keep you safe.

You've been wonderful riders! It is time to do a quick review:

Why should you be at the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes before your pick-up time?

- So that you don't have to run to catch the bus.
- You might slip and fall.
- The driver has other students waiting to be picked up.

How many steps back from the edge of the road should you wait?

- At least 2 big, giant steps.

What do you hold as you get on the bus?

- The handrail.

What should you do when you are on the bus?

- Always listen to the driver's instructions.
- Stay seated with your feet in front of you.
- Keep your backpack on your lap.
- Speak quietly so the driver can pay attention to the road.
- Don't eat on the bus – save your snacks for home or school.
- Keep your hands, head and your belongings inside the bus.

What do you do when you are getting off the bus?

- Wait for the bus to stop before standing up.
- Hold the handrail and walk carefully down the steps.

What do you do if your parents or caregiver are not waiting for you at the stop?

- Tell the bus driver and stay on the bus. The driver is there to help you.
- Remind your parents or caregiver that they need to be at the stop 5 to 10 minutes early to meet you.

What do you do when you get off the bus?

- Walk away from the bus and out of the danger zone.

If you need to cross the road in front of the bus, how many steps ahead of the bus should you take?

- 10 steps.

What should you do before you cross the road?

- Look at the driver and wait for their signal before crossing.
- Look both ways as you cross.

What should you do if you drop something on the street in front of or under the bus?

- Leave it there – **never, never, never** go back to pick it up.
- Tell your parents or caregiver.

And finally, what is Buzzy Bee's FAVOURITE treat?

- You got it – HONEY! Give yourselves a big pat on the 'wings' for being safe and awesome riders today!

**Have a happy ride and
BEE safe!**

