









Child Check Best Practices – For Drivers of Specialized Vehicles (Vans)

Thorough Child Check procedures are of extreme importance in specialized student transportation vehicles such as vans, just as they are in larger, traditional school buses. Child Check procedures are in place to ensure that no students have been left behind at the end of morning and afternoon runs. As an added bonus, thorough child check procedures will often expose unseen damage to the vehicle's interior and uncover property (e.g. lunches, personal items and support devices), which can then be recovered and quickly returned.

It is not unusual for students of any age to fall asleep on the ride to or from school. As a driver, you may in fact welcome the relative peace and quiet of your snoozing passengers. In addition to snoozers, younger passengers who might be confused about on and off-boarding procedures may neglect to exit the van when it arrives at school or at their assigned stop at the end of the day.

While it may seem unlikely that a child could be overlooked in a smaller vehicle such as a van, the likelihood of oversights of this nature happening increases when the child cannot be seen or heard and if the driver is distracted or tired. The consequences of such an oversight can be devastating.

What follows are some best practices as relates to conducting thorough and effective child check procedures on vans:

-  Thoroughly check the school vehicle right after school drop-off and immediately following the last drop-off, as soon as it may be done safely, to ensure that all students have disembarked.
-  Complete a check after each emptying of the vehicle (e.g. between first and second runs).
-  Be sure to check on and behind every seat. Be as thorough and deliberate as possible.
-  Never rely exclusively on your mirrors to determine if the vehicle is empty of passengers. Always complete a physical check for students left behind.
-  Check for any objects left on the vehicle by students and for any damage caused to the vehicle.
-  Make a thorough Child Check a part of your routine, so it becomes second nature.

Driver Name:

Date: