

School Bus Danger Zones: Street Crossing

Children killed in school bus related crashes most often are the result of either an overtaking and passing vehicle or the bus driver's inability to see the child. Teaching children safe school bus loading, unloading and street crossing practices can save a child's life.

Discussion Topics:

How far do you move away from the bus when you get off? Why is it important to walk 5 big steps 10 feet away from the front of the bus before crossing? What second edge do you stop at before crossing the street? What are the 4 School Bus Danger Zones? How far do you stand from the edge of the road while waiting for the bus?

Activity:

*Inside the classroom arrange chairs like the inside of a school bus, including the driver's seat. Use a cardboard box placed in front of the bus driver as your front of the bus.

*First explain to students that they should never stoop to pick up something that drops near the school bus. {Report this to the bus driver}

*Have the students stand 10 feet {5 big steps} away from the edge of the road. When the school bus has stopped completely and the stop bar is out, walk to the edge of the road, when the bus driver motions continue to carefully step on to the bus. Children practice this procedure in pairs.

*Demonstrate proper dismounting and crossing procedure. Get off the bus, take 3 big steps {5 feet} away from the bus, take 5 big steps {10 feet} to the front of the bus and stop. Search left-right-left to make sure traffic has stopped behind the bus. When it is clear and the bus driver signals it is ok to cross, move to the edge of the curb, continue searching, then walk to the edge of the bus and stop and search for traffic. When the road is clear or traffic is completely stopped, cross the street while continuing to search for traffic.