

ACTIVITY (INDOOR): SAFE SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

Background Information: Bus drivers have the tremendous responsibility of safely transporting children to and from school, on field trips and to various events on a daily basis. Drivers must remain alert and attentive to the rules of the road, the traffic conditions around them and to the students on the bus. Quiet, responsible behavior on the bus is an important component of any school bus program.

Activity Description:

- 1) When a school bus is not available arrange chairs in a straight line, in pairs, to resemble the inside of a school bus, allowing space for the aisle.
- 2) Divide the class into two groups, one group to participate and the other to observe. The observing group will rate the other groups behavior. These groups will switch roles through out the activity.
- 3) Ask the first group to role play: 1) Waiting for the school bus. 2) Getting on the bus. 3) Unloading a bus. 4) Traveling in a school bus. Ask the observing group to rate their performance using flash cards. The flash cards could read great, good, needs improvement, unsafe and so on.
- 4) Have the next group repeat the activity while the other group rates their performance.
- 5) Talk about safe and unsafe behavior when: 1) Waiting for the school bus. 2) Getting on the bus. 3) Unloading a school bus. 4) Traveling in a school bus. Discuss each of the following behaviors.
 - **When getting on the bus** - be courteous to others, no pushing or shoving; this can cause someone to fall or be pushed into the pathway of a bus or a car. Children should be on time to prevent from running into the roadway and to be courteous to others who are on time.
 - **When getting off the bus** - be courteous to others remaining on the bus, no climbing over other student to get out, let others ahead of you exit first, do not switch seats while others are loading or unloading, exit the bus promptly, have your belongings ready, respect personal space, do not tap other students on the back of the head when exiting. Discuss other possible scenarios with students.
 - **Stay seated when riding the bus** - standing, kneeling or climbing on the seats or moving around while the bus is in motion can distract the bus driver, obstruct his/her view and if the bus stops or slows down suddenly the student could fall and become injured.
 - **Keep the aisle clear** - remind children to keep their feet, books, lunch boxes, and back packs out of the aisle to avoid tripping someone and to ensure a quick evacuation in an emergency situation.
 - **Talk quietly to your friends on the bus** - it is unsafe to be noisy or to talk to the bus driver when he/she is driving because it distracts the bus driver who has to concentrate and be alert to what is happening around him/her. Whisper or read a book.
 - **Be quiet around Railroad Crossing** - be especially quiet so the driver can hear if a train is coming and determine if the tracks are clear.
 - **Never put your head, arms or any object out the window** - children should never hang their head or arms out the window because the bus could brush against an object and seriously injure them. Likewise, it is dangerous to hand or throw an object out the window; this can distract the bus driver, hit a pedestrian or a car and cause a crash.