

Safety reminders ensure safe travel to and from school

School bus safety week is Oct 15-19



According to the Canada Safety Council, it is 16 times safer per kilometre to travel on a school bus than in a family vehicle. However, while bus transportation is safe, accidents do occur and many of these incidents involve individuals outside the bus. To ensure children stay safe in and around school buses, it is important to reinforce the following safety reminders:

Tips for riding the bus

- Take a seat as quickly as possible, put belongings under the seat and stay seated.
- Never stick anything out of the window, including part of your body.
- Refrain from eating on the bus. If a choking incident occurs, the driver may not be able to help immediately.
- Wait until the school bus stops before standing up to exit the vehicle.

Tips for exiting the bus:

- When getting off the bus, take two large steps away from bus. If you have to walk in front of the bus, do so at least three metres (10 giant steps) away from the bus.
- The driver must be able to see students exiting the bus and will give a signal when it is safe to cross. If more than one student is crossing in front of the bus at the same time, they should cross in single file.
- Children must **never** reach for something that is under the bus without the driver's permission. Let the driver know that something is under the bus or wait until the bus moves out of the way.

Tips for walking to school:

- Help your child establish a safe, direct route to school. Avoid potential safety hazards such as train tracks, busy intersections, and reinforce what safety precautions to follow.
- Stay on sidewalks whenever possible. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road and walk facing traffic.
- Cross streets at intersections and at crosswalks and learn to look to the left, the right, and the left again before proceeding.
- Wait until traffic comes to a stop before crossing. Make sure drivers see you before you cross. Don't assume the driver will stop for you.

For more information about school bus safety, visit www.elmer.ca or www.safety-council.org.



