

School Bus Safety

Grade: Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 and 3

Subjects: Health, ELA, Math, Social Studies

Objective

Students will learn school bus safety rules, learn the importance of school bus safety and establish safe behaviors that support the safety of themselves and others while riding a school bus.

Background

Whether for going to school, or going on a fieldtrip, children should understand how to safely get on, ride and get off the school bus.

Since buses are built tall and long, it creates large blind spots for drivers. The biggest threat to children on school buses are motorists who pass when students are getting on or off the bus. It's important for children to be aware of and move away from the high-risk areas where they are hard to see or more likely to be injured (danger zones) when loading and unloading the school bus.

There are features inside school buses to ensure safety such as high back seats, padded seat backs and specific seat distances. The seats are designed to absorb impact on those hitting the back of the seat. Like with any vehicle they ride in, children can help keep everyone safe by staying seated, calm, and quiet to limit distraction to the driver.

Saskatchewan Curriculum Indicators

Kindergarten - **USCK.2** "Establish behaviours that support safety of self and others (including safety at school and at home)."

Grade 1 - **USC1.4** "Determine and practice safe pedestrian/street behaviours and examine related safety challenges in the community."

Grade 2 - **USC2.5** "Demonstrate healthy behaviours that favour the safety of self and others."

Grade 3 - **USC3.5** "Demonstrate ways (e.g., follow the safety rules; stop, look and listen...) to identify and assess the risk of potentially dangerous situations."

Wâsêna êkwa mistatim

Included in the booklet is a story, "Wâsêna êkwa mistatim", written by Indigenous storyteller Bruce Sinclair. Initially, Wâsêna's loyal dog atim and her grandmother's guidance pave her path towards understanding and freedom. With mistatim, the majestic horse, she learns the rhythms of nature and the essence of responsibility. In a symbolic transition, she envisions herself as a grown woman driving a vehicle akin to mistatim, signifying the evolution of her connection to the world and its safety. Each transition marks a new chapter in Wâsêna's life, rooted in the teachings of her past companions and grounded in a sense of care and appreciation for her own well-being and that of others on the road.

Learning Plan

Set (5 min.):

- Optional: Have the students watch **Let's Ride the Bus**
- After watching the video, ask students how they got to school. Emphasize asking if they've ridden a school bus or any other kind of bus.
- As a class, discuss what students already know about school bus safety.

Development (20 min.):

- Introduce activity book, Indigenous story and explain instructions.

Closure (5 min.):

- Review completed activity book pages.
- Discuss what they learned from the activity book, Indigenous story and video that they did not know before.

Lesson Activities

1. Getting on the school bus.
2. Riding the school bus.
3. Getting off the school bus.
4. Class activity (optional):

Pretend that the class is a big school bus or arrange the seats, so it mimics a bus's layout. Have the students pretend to ride the bus. The teacher will act as a student riding the bus and model safe behaviours for the students to follow. For example, staying seated, using indoor voices, clearing the aisles, keeping hands to ourselves, etc.

Suggested Resources

YouTube Video: **Let's Ride the Bus**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AQhr-xTRNo>

Recommendations:

K - Grade 1:

Independent activity:

Let's get on the bus,
Let's safely ride the bus,
Let's get off the bus.

Teacher led verbal activity:

Wâsêna êkwa mistatim story.

Grade 2 - 3:

Information:

Let's get on the bus, Let's safely ride the bus, Let's get off the bus, and Wâsêna êkwa mistatim story.

Independent activity:

Let's calculate the bus riders,
Let's find our school.



Discussion Questions

- Why is school bus safety important?
- What is the safest way to get on the bus?
- How can you help keep everyone safe while riding the bus?
- Do you know your bus driver's name?
- What kinds of things does a bus driver do?
- Does your bus driver or teacher remind you to be quiet on the bus? Why?
- What is the safest way to get off the bus?
- How do you safely get off the bus and cross the street?
- Just like Wâsêna in the story, how can you take care and be safe on the bus?