



Bus Safety for little kids

Buses are one of the safest modes of transportation for getting kids to and from school.

In fact, the greatest risk to your child is not travelling on a bus but approaching or leaving one.

Until they are at least 10 years old, children do not have the developmental maturity required to cross the road safely without holding an adult's hand.

It's up to you to supervise them closely and make sure they learn how to behave safely around buses.

Teach them the basics

- Hold your child's hand and walk together to the bus stop or bus interchange in the morning.
- If you cannot be with your child, organise for another trusted adult to take your place.
- Arrive at the bus stop well before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Having to rush or run for the bus can lead to risky behaviour.
- Meet your child AT the bus stop or bus interchange after school. NEVER wait on the opposite side of the road.
- Wait on the footpath until the bus has driven away.
- Together, choose the safest place to cross the road, and:
 - **STOP!** One step back from the kerb.
 - **LOOK!** For traffic to your right, left and right.
 - **LISTEN!** For the sounds of approaching traffic.
 - **THINK!** Whether it is safe to cross.
- Explain each action in turn as you cross safely.

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Have contingency plans in place

As we all know, even the most carefully laid plans have a way of going belly up! Your child needs alternative strategies if arrangements don't go the way you arranged. Knowing they have options helps kids not to panic.

Talk with your child about what to do:

- if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual
- if they catch the wrong bus
- if their bus doesn't come
- if they get off the bus at the wrong bus stop.

Did you know...



Parking opposite the bus stop (on the other side of the road) and waiting there for your child to cross the road is dangerous.

It is one of the most frequent causes of accidents at bus stops.