



RESPECT THE BUS PROGRAM™

SCHOOL BUS
SAFETY LESSON PLAN



"Bee Safe. Stay Out of the Danger Zone."

Lesson Overview

Grade Level	Kindergarten–Grade 2
Duration	20-30 minutes
Topic	School Bus Safety
Format	Interactive presentation featuring Tuffy the School Bus Safety Hero

Learning Objectives

- Students will identify the Danger Zone around a school bus
- Students will demonstrate proper bus safety behaviors
- Students will recite the BEE Rules for bus safety
- Students will understand why respecting the bus keeps everyone safe

Materials Needed

- Tuffy the School Bus Safety Hero book
- Coloring pages for distribution

Optional Materials

- School Bus Safety Hero rubber bracelets
 - Safety-themed pencils
 - Certificates to color
 - Access to school bus for outdoor demonstration
-

Lesson Structure

A. Introduction (5 minutes)

Bus driver introduces themselves and engages students with questions about the school bus. Introduce the concept "Respect the Bus" and have students repeat it together.

B. Why the Bus is Special (3 minutes)

Explain that school buses are among the safest vehicles, but the most dangerous moments are when getting on/off or standing too close. This sets up the importance of today's lesson.

C. Meet Tuffy & Interactive Reading (10-12 minutes)

Introduce Tuffy the School Bus Safety Hero book. Teach the call-and-response: "Bee Safe!" / "Stay Out of the Danger Zone!"

- Danger Zone concept introduction
- Zach and Zoey Zebra: Why we don't yell on the bus
- Review first 3 Respect the Bus Rules
- Staying seated while bus is moving
- Meeting Paige Possum: Understanding disabilities
- Bus driver responsibilities
- Freddy's mistakes: Standing and eating on the bus
- Why quiet voices matter for driver safety
- Al's poor choice pushing past Paige

D. Danger Zone Activity (3-4 minutes)

Students stand and stretch arms out toward neighbor (pretending they're a bus). Teach the key rule: "If you can touch the bus, you are in the Danger Zone!" Discuss what to do if something drops near the bus (tell the driver, never go under).

E. Bus Safety Game (3 minutes)

Interactive thumbs up/thumbs down game. Present scenarios and students indicate if safe or unsafe.

- Walking to your seat (safe)
- Holding the handrail (safe)
- Running to the bus (unsafe)
- Standing while bus is moving (unsafe)
- Talking quietly (safe)
- Throwing things (unsafe)
- Helping a friend (safe)

- Keeping the aisle clear (safe)

F. BEE Rules Review (2 minutes)

Review the six BEE Rules with students repeating after presenter. Call on students to recall rules.

G. Safety Hero Pledge (2 minutes)

Students raise right hand and repeat the School Bus Safety Hero Pledge together, making an official commitment to bus safety.

H. Closing (1-2 minutes)

Reinforce student commitment with questions about who will help keep buses safe. Final call-and-response: "Bee Safe!" / "Stay Out of the Danger Zone!"

The BEE Rules

Rule	What It Means
BEE Ready	Be prepared and on time for the bus
BEE Careful	Watch where you're going and hold the handrail
BEE Quiet	Use inside voices so the driver can concentrate
BEE Seated	Stay in your seat while the bus is moving
BEE Kind	Respect your driver and fellow passengers
BEE Safe	Always stay out of the Danger Zone

Key Vocabulary

- **Danger Zone:** The area around the bus where the driver may not see you (if you can touch the bus, you're in it)
- **Handrail:** The bar you hold when getting on or off the bus
- **Respect the Bus:** Following safety rules to keep everyone safe

Extension Activities

1. Outdoor Demonstration (if bus available): Show flashing lights, demonstrate safe crossing, identify Danger Zone, practice what to do if something falls
2. Coloring Activity: Distribute Tuffy coloring pages to reinforce concepts
3. Role Play: Students practice scenarios like boarding safely, staying seated, and helping friends make good choices
4. Create Safety Posters: Students draw pictures showing BEE Rules

Assessment Strategies

- Observe student participation in call-and-response activities
- Monitor thumbs up/thumbs down responses during safety game
- Listen to student answers during discussion questions
- Check for understanding during BEE Rules recitation
- Note engagement during pledge ceremony

Tips for Success

- Maintain high energy and enthusiasm throughout
- Use animated voices for different characters in the book
- Pause frequently for student responses and questions
- Make eye contact and move around the room
- Celebrate correct answers and participation
- Keep the pace moving to maintain attention
- Use the call-and-response frequently to re-engage students