



RESPECT THE BUS PROGRAM™

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

Audience: Kindergarten–Grade 2

20-30 minutes

A School Bus Safety Presentation for school bus drivers and teachers designed to be interactive, energetic, and educational while reinforcing lessons from the book *Tuffy the School Bus Safety Hero*.

Materials needed: Books, coloring pages to hand out at end.

Optional: School Bus Safety Hero rubber bracelets/ pencils/certificate to color

Introduction

Bus driver introduce themselves to the group "Hi kids, I'm _____ and I am here to talk with you about school bus safety.

Ask students: How many of you like the school bus? (Raise your hand and wait for students.)

Have them give reasons why:

Now let me ask you another question...

Who wants to be a **School Bus Safety Hero**?

(Wait for everyone to raise their hands.)

I hoped you'd say that!

Today we're going to learn how every one of you can become a School Bus Safety Hero by learning something very important...

Respect the Bus!

Can everyone say that with me?

Respect the Bus!

Wonderful!

Why the Bus is Special

Did you know your school bus is one of the safest vehicles on the road?

Every day it safely carries millions of children to and from school.

But here's something very important...

The most dangerous part of riding the bus isn't usually while you're sitting inside.

It's when you're getting on...
getting off...
or standing too close to the bus.

That's why today we're going to learn how to stay safe.

Meet Tuffy

(Hold up the book.)

This is my friend...

Tuffy the School Bus Safety Hero!

Tuffy loves helping children learn how to ride safely.

Today we're going to help Tuffy teach some important lessons.

Every time I say...

"Bee Safe!"

I want everyone to answer...

"Stay Out of the Danger Zone!"

Let's practice.

Bee Safe!

(Students respond.)

Excellent!

Read the story, stopping often to ask questions. Suggested stopping points:

- In the beginning when Tuffy talks about the Danger Zone say, "Bee Safe" (students respond)
"Stay Out of the Danger Zone!"

- When Zach and Zoey Zebra are shouting at each other
Ask students why they shouldn't yell on the bus before reading the next page.

- Review the first 3 Respect the Bus Rules

- After Tuffy crosses the bridge, review the new rule added about staying seated

- When we meet Paige Possum we learn she is a student with a disability. This is an opportunity to talk about what that means.

- Review the rules again with the students

- Bus drivers at Honey Bus Depot: Talk about ways school bus drivers Respect the Bus (pre-trip, keeping bus clean, etc.)

- Freddy hopping around the bus and eating on the bus

Ask: "Is it safe to stand up while the bus is moving?"

Why not?

Ask: "Why isn't it safe to eat on the bus?"

Freddy could choke on something. It can make a mess on the bus.

- Zach and Zoey getting loud

Ask: "Why do bus drivers need children to use quiet voices?"

Allow answers.

Explain: "When the bus is noisy, it's harder for the driver to hear traffic, a train at a railroad crossing, emergency vehicles, or students who may need help."

- Al pushing past Paige to get off the bus

Ask:

"Was Al making a good choice?"

"What could he have done differently?"

Danger Zone! Paige dropped her book under the bus. Important to have a backpack to keep papers and books together.

Danger Zone Lesson

Now I want everyone to stand up.

Stretch your arms out. Pretend the person next to you is a school bus.

When you're this close...

(point to a nearby student)

...you're in something called...

THE DANGER ZONE!

Can everyone say...

"Danger Zone!"

The Danger Zone is the area all around the bus where the driver may not be able to see you.

Here's the easiest way to remember it...

If you can touch the bus...

Students:

"You are in the Danger Zone!"

That's exactly right!

Now...

If you drop something near the bus...

Should you crawl under the bus?

NO!

What should you do?

(Take answers. If someone says, "Tell the bus driver")

That's right!

Tell the bus driver.

Never go under or around the bus by yourself.

Bus Safety Game

I'm going to tell you something.

If it's SAFE...

Give me a thumbs up.

If it's NOT SAFE...

Give me a thumbs down.

Ready?

1. Walking to your seat.
2. Holding the handrail.
3. Running to the bus.
4. Standing while the bus is moving.
5. Talking quietly.
6. Throwing things.
7. Helping a friend.
8. Keeping the aisle clear.

Fantastic!

The BEE Rules

Refer to last page in book to review:

Let's review the BEE Rules.

Repeat after me.

BEE Ready

BEE Careful

BEE Quiet

BEE Seated

BEE Kind

BEE Safe

Excellent!

Can anyone remember one of those?

(Call on several students.)

School Bus Safety Hero Pledge

Raise your right hand.

Repeat after me.

"I promise...
to respect the bus...
respect my driver...
respect my friends...
stay seated...
use a quiet voice...
hold the handrail...
stay out of the Danger Zone...
and always...
Bee Safe!"
Wonderful!
You are now officially...
School Bus Safety Heroes!

Closing

Before I leave, I have one more question.
Who is going to help keep their bus safe this year?
Who is going to remind a friend about the Danger Zone?
Who is going to Respect the Bus?
Thank you for helping make our buses safer.
Remember...

Bee Safe!

(Students)

Stay Out of the Danger Zone!

Have a wonderful school year!

Optional Demonstration (Outside)

If a school bus is available after the presentation:

- Show students the flashing red lights.
- Demonstrate how to cross safely.
- Show the Danger Zone around the bus.
- Demonstrate what to do if something falls under the bus.

This hands-on activity reinforces the lessons from *Tuffy the School Bus Safety Hero* and helps students apply what they learned in a real-world setting.