



# School Bus Safety

## Sample Training Script for Buster the Bus

### BASIC OUTLINE – SCRIPT 1

#### Introduction

*Begin with Buster in the room in 'sleep mode'.*

(Greetings). My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I've bought my friend BUSTER with me! How many of you boys & girls ride the school bus in the morning or afternoon? Raise your hands! What about the rest of you? Will you go on a bus for a field trip sometime?

Good! We are here to talk to you about riding the school bus safely.

*Begin to explain the safety topics you will cover:*

1. *At the bus stop*
2. *Getting on the bus*
3. *Riding the bus*
4. *Exiting the bus*
5. *The danger zone*

BUSTER, Wake up BUSTER!

*Buster's eyes open one at a time. He turns on his red flashing lights, moves, stops, stops sign goes out, etc.*

#### At the Bus Stop

BUSTER, let's show the children how to be safe at the bus stop.

*Explain how important it is to be safe BEFORE you even get on the bus:.*

1. Stand back from the road.  
*Indicate where the road is and where you should stand in relation to the bus.*
2. Wait for the bus to STOP, red lights on, door open and stop sign to be out.  
*Buster should flash his lights and extend the stop arm.*

And if you have to cross the street

3. LOOK AT YOUR BUS DRIVER. He or she will hold their hand up telling you to wait.  
*Have the children hold up their left hand, palm out.*
4. WHEN THE DRIVER SEES THAT CARS HAVE STOPPED he or she will give you the THUMBS UP sign and point to cross the road.  
*Have the children do the thumb up and point*
5. Then, LOOK BOTH WAYS, twice (point to eyes) before you cross the road.  
*Have the children move their head side to side as if checking for cars both ways.*  
Can you do that? Let's see LOOK BOTH WAYS....twice! Let's teach Buster.  
*Buster moves his eyes from side to side.*

BUSTER, Can we teach the children how to get on the bus safely?

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#### Getting on the Bus

*Explain the safety rules for boarding the bus.*

- 1. Climb the steps carefully one at a time*
- 2. Use the handrail.*
- 3. If you drop something, TELL THE DRIVER and let the driver help you get it. Don't go after it!*

Don't EVER go under a school bus for ANY reason.. It is not safe there.

*Attempt to bend over and pick up a dropped item, at which time Buster will sound his horn, flash lights, etc and emphasize how you NEVER do that.*

#### Riding the Bus

Do you know the rules for riding the bus? Good! Your teacher has done a good job! So let's teach Buster! Buster Wake Up!

*Explain the rules:*

1. Stay seated while the bus is moving.
2. Talk quietly to passengers close by (no yelling and screaming that could disturb your driver).  
*Buster can interact, repeating rules, emphasizing phrases, etc.*
3. Keep your bus clean. (Do not eat or throw trash.) No one likes to be sticky.
4. Stay seated until your bus stops!



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## Exiting the Bus

What do we do to safely exit the bus once it has stopped?

*Explain the rules:*

1. Do not push or shove when you get out of your seat.
2. Walk slowly toward the exit door and exit one at a time.
3. Always use the handrail and LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE STEPPING OFF.

*Have Buster ask questions to interact... 'Why do you have to use the handrail?' And why do I have to look before I step off the bus?*

4. Always step at least ten feet (that's 5 giant steps) in front of the bus.

*Step off five giant steps...Buster asks... 'How many giant steps did you say?'*

5. Never ever bend over to pick up something you dropped or crawl under the bus.

*Buster says, 'But what do you do if you drop your bookbag?'*

And if you have to cross the street

6. LOOK AT YOUR BUS DRIVER. He or she will hold their hand up telling you to wait.

*Have the children hold up their right hand, palm out.*

7. WHEN THE DRIVER SEES THAT CARS HAVE STOPPED he or she will give you the THUMBS UP sign and point to cross the road.

*Have the children do the thumb up and point*

8. Then, LOOK BOTH WAYS, twice (point to eyes) before you cross the road, especially when you stop out from in front of the bus while crossing the road..

*Have the children move their head side to side as if checking for cars both ways.*

Can you do that? Let's see LOOK BOTH WAYS....twice! Let's teach Buster.

*Buster moves his eyes from side to side.*

Let's talk about the most important School Bus Safety rule: **Know the Danger Zone**

*Show where the danger zone is around the bus.*

Never ever walk behind the bus where the driver can't see you.

*Walk behind the bus at which time Buster will begin flashing his lights, honking the horn and explaining how you never walk behind the bus.*

## Strangers at the Bus Stop

Let's talk about one more thing: If there is a stranger at the bus stop, and you don't know if anyone is home, tell your bus driver. Don't be scared. Your bus driver will help you.

You have not done anything wrong by staying on the bus. It is safe there with your school bus driver.

## Review

*Ask the children to tell you a safety rule.*

OK! Can someone tell me a school bus safety rule you have learned today?

*Review the rules:*

Good! Now will you promise me and Buster you will do these things?

*Buster says good-bye.*