



# School Bus Safety

## Sample Training Script for the School Bus Robot

### “Buster Loves His Mama”

As children are coming in for the program, Buster is sitting in a corner sleeping (Buster--making sleeping sounds.)

Hello boys and girls. My name is Mrs. Jones and I am here today to help you understand about school bus safety. School bus safety is important, right? I have my bestest school bus safety friend, Buster, here with me today. Buster travels the state helping boys and girls just like you understand school bus safety. He is over there. I think that he fell asleep waiting to meet everyone, cause you know he is just a baby, and babies need a lot of sleep time. Let's all be real quiet so Buster does not get scared. You know babies get scared. I will try to wake him up.

*Mrs. Jones:* (shaking, rolling, touching Buster) Baby Buster, Baby Buster, time to wake up and start another day.

*Buster:* (sleep sounds) - starting to wake (one eye open)

*Mrs. Jones:* oh Baby Buster, please wake up and meet my new friends.

*Buster:* (2 eyes blinking, sounds, one eye opened) Oh Mrs. Jones, let me sleep just a little bit longer, please (rolling eyes).

*Mrs. Jones:* Now Buster, sleep time is over cause we have some boys and girls here to see you sleepyhead.

*Buster:* (full of self)-(circles, wheelies, lights on) I like it when boys and girls come to see me Mrs. Jones. Do you see all of the boys and girls?

*Mrs. Jones:* Yes Buster, that is why I wanted you to wake up.

*Buster:* Mrs. Jones, did you give the boys and girls a sticker with my picture on it yet?

*Mrs. Jones:* No Buster not yet, the boys and girls need to know about school bus safety before they get a sticker.

Buster: but it has my picture on it and I am so cute.

*Buster:* To a girl (wink) you are cute too.... Are you here to see me and learn about school bus safety?

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# S A F E T Y

**Buster:** (going back and forth in front of students) I know all about school bus safety Mrs. Jones cause that is what I do. I might just be a little baby bus but I know about safety. And I want the boys and girls here to know about safety and school buses too.

**Mrs. Jones:** Well OK Buster. Since you know so much, tell the boys and girls **where the danger-zone is.**

**Buster:** (shaking head and moving eyes) oh Mrs. Jones, the danger- zone is anywhere around the bus where the bus driver cannot see you.

**Mrs. Jones:** (walk to back) like at the back door?

**Buster:** Most definitely the back door. Boys and girls should (shake head no) never ever cross in back of the school bus for any reason. That is the biggest “no no”.

**Mrs. Jones:** Boys and girls Buster is right, because the bus driver can never see you if you’re at the back of the bus. Remember to always cross in front of a school bus where the bus driver can watch you cross the road.

**Buster:** Safety first-safety first!

**Buster:** Mrs. Jones, tell the boys and girls about crossing using their eyes, ears and neck (say slowly) before crossing in front of the bus. That is real important too, don’t you think?

**Mrs. Jones:** Yes Buster, it is most important that everyone use their eyes, ears and neck muscles before crossing in front of the bus.

**Buster:** (very fast) Let me show them, let me show them Mrs, jones. I love to show the boys and girls. Let me, let me please.

**Mrs. Jones:** OK Buster (rolling eyes), but can the boys and girls do it with you?

**Buster:** Oh yes, I just love showing off. OK boys and girls, get your eyes, ears and neck muscles ready for work.

**Buster:** Your ears need to be ready for hearing, (moving neck) make sure your neck muscles can move like this (give students time to move necks) and make sure your eyes (move eyes) are opened when you move your neck (giggle). Cause some of these students look like sleepy heads in the mornings. I’m a sleepyhead in the mornings, too, Mrs. Jones (giggle).

**Mrs. Jones:** I know Buster, but we have to remember to be safe when crossing in front of the school bus or just getting to the bus stop.

**Buster:** (spinning around) Safety first-safety first boys and girls.



# S A F E T Y

*Buster:* I have a question for you (pick out a boy in front). What is your name? Do you ever ride a school bus like my mommy? (turn to students) My mommy is a big bus and one day I will be a big bus too. I learned a lot about school bus safety from my mommy. (back to the boy) Moms and Dads are special and teach us lots of things.

*Mrs. Jones:* Buster, I know you love your mama but lets get back to school bus safety.

*Buster:* OK Mrs. Jones, since you know so much, tell the boys and girls what the difference is in the yellow and red lights. I mean they both flash, you know (rolling eyes)...thinks she so smart (close eyes).

*Mrs. Jones:* I know the answer to this one Buster but I wonder if someone else can help answer this.

*Buster:* Cause she doesn't know.

*Mrs. Jones:* Does anyone know what the yellow lights mean on top of the school bus when they are flashing?

*Buster:* Let me pick. (back and forth, shaking head). How about you?

If the answer is right (spin around and say right, right, right) Safety first, safety first.

If not right, be nice and say let Mrs. Jones tell you what they are for cause she knows everything (looking at the students-moving head).

*Mrs. Jones:* When yellow lights are flashing on top of the bus...

*Buster:* Flashing yellow lights

*Mrs. Jones:* That means for other vehicles to get ready to stop. Just like a traffic light in town. Yellow means prepare to stop. And red lights.

*Buster:* Ah - I know, I know-let me tell them.

*Mrs. Jones:* Rolling her eyes

*Buster:* Even though I'm just a baby, I know that red lights mean stop (turning and blink one eye). Learned that one from my mama, and all traffic must stop for the school bus so the boys and girls can be safe-safety first-safety first!



# S A F E T Y

**Buster:** And what about crossing the road? The boys and girls already learned some of that!

**Mrs. Jones:** Step 1: 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.*

Step 2: 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*

Step 3: 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. Children can chant: LOOK-BOTH-WAYS!*

**Buster:** Never run to get on or off the bus.

**Mrs. Jones:** As you enter the bus, use the handrail and get in your assigned seat.

**Buster:** No pushing or shoving.

**Mrs. Jones:** And always get in your seat quickly so the bus can continue the bus route.

**Buster:** and never throw anything out the windows and keep your belongings out of the center aisle so someone else doesn't fall over your stuff. They could get hurt (not safe). They are good bus riders Mrs. Jones. I can tell. (turning and blinking one eye at the students) cause they are learning from me (giggles).

**Mrs. Jones:** Should boys and girls be quiet at railroad crossings?

**Buster:** Most definitely because the bus driver needs to hear if a train is coming. Boys and girls know that. In fact, they should be not just quiet but SILENT!

**Mrs. Jones:** And the emergency door?

**Buster:** (turning to show students the emergency door). This door; my back door.

**Mrs. Jones:** Yes Buster. Your emergency door just like on the big "mama" bus. Boys and girls should never play with the handle on the inside of the bus. It could open.

**Buster:** You could fall out. (circling around the students) and it is a long way down; you would get hurt and maybe even get run over by the car behind the bus. (sad) I would cry and be sad. Your mama would be sad too. (slowly and shaking head) not safe...

**Mrs. Jones:** Buster is right. Never play with the emergency door or the emergency windows on a school bus. It is just not safe.



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## Exiting the Bus

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

*Now Mrs. Jones will explain the rules for safely exiting the bus and crossing the street:*

1. Do not push or shove when you get out of your seat.
2. Walk slowly toward the 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.*

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*Buster:* Mrs. Jones, do you think that the boys and girls learned anything today?

*Mrs. Jones:* Well lets find out Buster.

*Buster:* (circling around the students) oh boy...

*Mrs. Jones:* I think that the boys and girls learned:

1. To cross in front of the school bus-Buster: never behind-
2. To watch for the bus driver's signal to cross.
3. To always look both ways before crossing the street-- Buster: eyes, ears and neck muscles
4. Flashing yellow lights means-Buster: (yellow lights on)

*Buster:* all cars prepare to stop (that means to get ready to stop) (wink).

5. To not play with the emergency door Buster: it could open and could fall out.
6. To be real quiet at railroad crossings-Buster: sh-hhh
7. And the danger-zone is where boys and girls? Anywhere around the bus where the bus driver cannot see you.
7. Flashing red lights mean-Buster (red lights on) stop.....

S-t-o-p-s-t-o-p-s-t-o-p-

*Buster:* Wow, what a day!.. You guys are great!