

Preparing your kindergarten child to ride the school bus

Riding the school bus is a new experience for kindergarten children. This fact sheet will help you prepare your child to safely ride the school bus.

Who may ride the school bus?

Kindergarten students who live more than one kilometer from the school qualify for bus transportation.

What you should know

- Because central pick-up and drop-off locations are used, children have to walk from their home to the school bus stop.
- Your child's school will inform you of bus times and bus stop locations. Schedules are approximate, so students should be at bus stops at least five minutes before the designated time.
- Sometimes bus drivers can't enter new subdivisions because of construction activity or narrow roadways. In this situation, you are responsible for taking your child to the nearest bus stop.
- Children ride the bus to and from school each day with older children from other elementary grades.

Meeting your child at the bus stop

You are responsible for your children before they step on the bus and once they step off the bus. If no one meets your kindergarten child at the bus stop, the bus driver is required to take the child back to school.

Special safety features

The following safeguards will assist kindergarten students during the first few weeks of school:

Working together to keep students safe

- Plan your schedule so your child does not arrive at the bus stop too early.
- Stay with your child until they get onto the bus.
- Make sure your child knows what stop to get off the bus.
- Kindergarten students must be met by a parent/caregiver at their designated stop each day.
- Students who are not met will be returned to the school by the driver at the end of the route.

Identification tags

The school will give identification tags to kindergarten students that list their school, bus route and bus stop location. This ensures that children get off the bus at the right place. Please make sure that your child wears the identification tag to school every day.

Bus numbers

Each school bus has a route number posted in the window.

Tips to help make your child's bus ride safe

You can help keep your child safe on the bus by sharing the following tips with your child:

At the bus stop

- stay back from the road
- wait quietly in line when getting on and off the bus
- stay back until the bus stops, its lights start flashing and the door opens
- get on and off the bus one at a time
- wait your turn to get on the bus-don't push or shove
- always look both ways before crossing in front of the bus
- stay three metres (the length of a car) or more from the front of the bus

On the bus

- speak quietly to your friends and try not to raise your voice on the bus
- sit properly in your seat—never stand when the bus is moving

When you leave the bus

- look in all directions before you cross the street and walk, don't run
- use your eyes and ears before you use your feet
- go straight home-don't make any stops along the way

Things for children to remember

- your name, address, and telephone number
- your school and teacher's name
- your bus driver's name

For more information:

For more information about busing, contact your school principal or the Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) at **905-890-6000 or 1-800-668-1140**.

STOPR is a consortium, operating on behalf of both the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. For more bussing information, please visit our website at www.stopr.ca and follow us on Twitter @STOPRinfo for any school bus cancellations, safety announcements and updates.

For more information on school bus safety, call the Canada Safety Council at 613-739-1535 or visit the school bus safety web site at www.elmer.ca.