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SAFETY BRAKE

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Every school day in this country 25 million children ride in a bus. They are among the safest modes of transport. However, more school-age pedestrians have been killed from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. than any other time of day, NHTSA says¹. Kids face real risks when they walk to the bus stop, and when getting on and off the bus. You can make school bus transportation safer for everyone by following these tips:

Backing out of the driveway: When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.²

Slow down: Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in neighborhood.²

Bus stops: Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.²

Be alert: Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.²

Children at play: Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.²

School zone: When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.²

Know the law: Learn and obey the school bus laws in your state, as well as the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions²:

- ◆ **Yellow flashing lights** indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- ◆ **Red flashing lights and extended stop arms** indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

1. <https://www.consumerreports.org/child-safety/school-bus-safety-tips>

2. <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety>

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