

**WASHITA VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL
HEAD START PROGRAM
TRANSPORTATION PARENT ORIENTATION**

Emphasize to parents that:

- All drivers are professionally trained
- Each child will be transported in a safe and pleasant manner
- All children and families will be treated with respect

Hand out Transportation Request/Agreement form

- Ensure parent circles the times the child will be riding the bus.
1. Discuss Danger Zone (area immediately around the bus)
 - a. Stay out of the danger zone at all times! Remember, if you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you!
 - b. Never let children go near the bus unless the driver has given the signal to come!
 - c. If you drop anything in the danger zone, leave it. Never, never stop to pick it up!
 - d. Never, ever walk or play around or near the bus
 2. Escort the child to the bus. PLEASE DON'T ASK US TO HONK.
 - a. The bus will wait one minute. Please have your child ready at least 5 minutes early. After the first two weeks, the bus time should be more consistent.
 - b. The driver will not open the door until the parent or authorized representative who is escorting the child is at the bus.
 - c. The child will be released only to an adult who is listed on the Transportation Request/Agreement or on the child's enrollment application. We may not release the child to any other person.
 - d. If the child will not be riding the bus, please call the Head Start center.
 - e. If your child is sick, we will bring the child back to your house if possible. We will call to let you know we are returning.
 - f. The child will not be allowed to board the bus with food, toys (unless it is show and tell), sharp or breakable objects, or weapons, including toy type.
 - g. If there are any changes in phone numbers, addresses, or custody, please let the Head Start center or driver know immediately.
 3. After sharing this information, give the attached sheet of rules to the parent.

***IF YOUR CHILD RIDES THE HEAD START SCHOOL BUS,
THESE RULES ARE IMPORTANT FOR HIS SAFETY.***



Rules for getting on the bus safely:

1. Be at the bus stop on time. Never run to or from the bus.
2. Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from the side of the road.
3. Remember the danger zone around the bus. The danger zone is anywhere close enough to the bus to touch it. The bus driver cannot see the child when he is in the danger zone.
4. If you cross the street to get on the bus: when the bus comes, wait until it has come to a complete stop. The bus driver will make sure all the traffic stops. The stop arm will be out and the red lights will be flashing. Watch the driver. When the driver knows it is safe, he or she will signal you to cross, but watch for traffic yourself. Walk, don't run.
5. Help your child hold the hand rail as he gets on the bus.
6. Remember to sign your child on the bus.

Teach Your Child These Rules for Safe School Bus Riding:

1. Take a seat promptly and sit properly, facing forward at all times.
2. Keep safety restraint buckled at all times.
3. Bags will be buckled with the child. Do not stick feet into the aisle: someone might trip.
4. Keep head and arms-everything-inside the bus. Don't throw anything out the windows or around in the bus.
5. Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate to drive the bus safely.
6. No fighting, shouting or playing in or around the bus.
7. Always follow the bus driver's instructions.

Rules for leaving the bus safely:

1. When leaving the bus, help your child hold the handrail.
2. He should take two large steps away from the bus.
3. Remember to sign your child off the bus.
4. To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least ten giant steps. Cross only when the driver gives a signal.
5. If your child drops something near the bus, don't pick it up. Tell the driver.
6. If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push.
7. Help your child remember the rules for emergencies.

