

## Preparing your kindergarten child to ride the school bus

The Peel District School Board and The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board operate a joint transportation system which provides busing service for thousands of students each year.

Riding the school bus is a new experience for kindergarten children. The following information will help you prepare your child to ride the school bus.

### **Who may ride the school bus?**

Kindergarten students who live more than one kilometre from the school qualify for 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. In this situation, you are responsible for taking your child to the nearest bus stop.

Kindergarten is a half-day program. Children in the morning program ride the bus to school with older children from other elementary grades, but on their trip home they ride exclusively with other kindergarten children. Children enrolled in the afternoon program ride to school exclusively with other kindergarten children, but on their trip home they ride with older children.

### **Safety -- you can help!**

You are responsible for your children before they step on the bus and the moment they step off the bus.

A safety protocol, specific to primary aged students, has been established. It requires that students wear a specific tag to identify them as primary aged students. It also specifies seats exclusively for primary aged students on the bus and requires that no primary aged student be allowed to disembark from the bus unless there is a parent/caregiver available at the stop to receive them. Specific information regarding this protocol will be provided to you in September.

### **Special safety features**

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

#### **Name tags:**

The school will give name tags to all kindergarten students identifying their school, bus run and bus stop location. This ensures children get off the bus at the right place. Please make sure your child wears the name.

#### **Bus numbers:**

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

#### **Bus stops:**

Bus drivers will also call out the name of each bus stop to help children get off the bus at the correct stop. Please make sure your child knows the name of the bus stop

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### **Safety video:**

In early September, all kindergarten children view a bus safety video. The video presents the basic safety rules of riding a bus. Kindergarten teachers supplement the video with classroom instruction.

### **Student behaviour**

The behaviour of each student on the bus directly affects the safety of others. Incidents of poor behaviour on the bus are reported in writing by the bus driver to the school principal. Depending on the seriousness of the incident, the principal may issue a warning to the student, speak to parents, suspend bus privileges or take other disciplinary action.

### **Kindergarten Orientation**

Attached is an invitation for you and your child to attend the Young Rider School Bus Orientation Program on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008.

### **For more information**

For more information, contact your school principal for the transportation office in your area:

**South Area Office (905) 890-6362**

**Central Area Office (905) 890-0614**

**North Area Office (905) 890-6000  
1-800-668-1140**