



Keeping kids safe at HOME, at
SCHOOL, at PLAY, and ON the WAY!!



October 20—24 Marks National School Bus Safety Week

Getting students to and from school on a bus has been a part of our culture for many years. Students and families rely on the school bus for getting to the classroom, and over the years lots has changed in the safety of this mode of transportation. Safe Kids Grand Forks has bus safety instructors on our team that offer these tips for keeping students safe:

- ⇒ Most incidents involving school buses happen outside the bus. Teach students waiting for pick up to stand 3 giant steps away from where the bus will pull up, and when they get off the bus, step away from it right away.
- ⇒ Remove backpacks and sit with your back against the seat back and facing forward. Never sit or stand in the aisles or put more than 2-3 people on a seat. If there are seatbelts on the bus, use them.
- ⇒ When crossing the street in front of the bus, stop at the edge of it, look at the driver, and wait for a signal from them that it is safe to cross. While the STOP arm may be out, some drivers don't obey it, making it dangerous to cross.
- ⇒ Some students may have special needs and would benefit from a safety restraint on the bus. If students are in wheelchairs, learn the proper way for them to be loaded with the lift and assure the transportation team knows to secure the chair with 4 points on the floor. Many students on the autism spectrum can benefit from a safety restraint that helps keep them in their seat, or small children can be better secured in a car seat. Our team at Safe Kids Grand Forks would be happy to help assess bus safety options for families and students. Please reach out if we can be of assistance with this transportation need.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

- Keep costumes creative, but make sure they fit well and aren't oversized. Keep them safe with reflective tape or glow sticks.
- Carry a flashlight to be seen more easily or a mylar bag that catches the light. (We have them FREE at our office!!)
- Stick to familiar areas, stay in groups, and if under 12, take an adult. Only go to homes with lights on out front.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths, crossing the street at signals and corners where there is light to be more visible. Be sure to make eye contact with the driver before crossing so you know they have seen you.
- Avoid dark colored costumes that make trick-or-treaters hard to be seen in low light conditions, and use face paint rather than a mask which limits your ability to see.
- If trick-or-treating by car, even with a costume on, it is important to buckle up in your car or booster seat or seatbelt.
- Consider attending a community Halloween event that is often indoors or a trunk-or-treat event that is in an enclosed parking lot. Or, think about hosting your own Halloween party and avoiding the outdoors all together.



Altru Health System is proud to serve as the lead agency for Safe Kids Grand Forks.

For more information on this and other childhood injury prevention topics, visit safekidsgf.com, call us at 701.780.1489 or email safekids@altru.org.



This information is brought to you by Safe Kids Grand Forks & our partners at Vision Zero.