

Managing Children on the Bus

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Performance Objective: (1304.21) Provide Bus Driver and Monitor with information and knowledge necessary to develop a behavior management plan that will produce positive outcomes for the children being transported to and from the Head Start center on their bus.

Behavior Management Plan

1. A behavior management plan for pre-school children should include methods to direct or channel their energy towards positive outcomes. This can be accomplished by planning activities for the bus ride. These activities can include:
 - A. Safety on the bus
 - B. Practicing safe bus evacuation drills
 - C. Sing-a-long songs and poems
 - D. Playing I spy with animals and colored objects along the bus route
 - E. Correct control of voice levels when communicating
 - F. Communicating respectfully with peers and adults
 - G. Respect for people and propertyThe Bus Monitor must become familiar with sing along songs such as: Wheels on The Bus, Old MacDonald's Farm, A Farmer Had a Dog, Bingo Was His Name. During Christmas season carols like Jingle Bells or Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer are always favorites. These are critical to the success of the bus ride and the self-esteem of the child.
2. A behavior plan should include intervention methods to be used to re-direct a child who is acting out or being disrespectful to property or others.

Suggested Intervention methods:

Step One: Making direct eye contact with the child.

Step Two: Softly speak the child's name.

Step Three: Write the child's name on a piece of paper and put it in your pocket or purse.

Step Four: Ask the Bus Driver to pull the bus over to the side and stop.

Step Five: After bus is stopped, remove the child from their seat restraint and ask them to accompany you to front of bus, quietly address the child about the problem and politely ask the child if they can help you by stopping the disrespectful behavior. If the child is positive with their response, return them to their seat restraint and thank them for their help.

Step Six: After bus is stopped, assist the child in removing their restraint. Ask the child softly to move to the window seat next to where you are seated. Assist the child into the restraint and make sure it is readjusted properly to fit the new occupant. Thank the child for their cooperation.

3. To be successful at managing the children, the Bus Driver and Monitor must practice the same philosophy and use the same behavioral management techniques for all children, including positive reinforcement for positive outcomes.
4. The Bus Driver and Monitor must create a behavior management plan together in which the FRS will review and make recommendations or approve.

Assigned Seating

1. Due to having restraints that must be correctly fitted to the child according to height and weight, assigned seating is a must.
2. When assigning seats at the beginning of the Head Start year, it is important to explain to the child that this will be their temporary seat until all children have adjusted to having a safe and enjoyable bus ride.
3. Until all children are known, their name will be posted above the window to assure they are in the correct seat and using the correct restraint. Remember that younger children may not recognize their name yet. It may be necessary to create a seating chart due to requirements about where you can use seat mount restraints.
4. After the year has progressed about two months, you may find it necessary to change the seating arrangement because a few of the children may become increasing rowdy. When this has become a necessity, arrange the seating so the most rowdy child is setting in the window seat of the seat of the Monitor. The next most rowdy child will set in the aisle seat across from the Monitor. The third most rowdy child will set in the seat in front of the Monitor, etc. This is assuming all other seats are occupied. If not, then the rowdy children can be more isolated almost like in time out seating. The Bus Driver and Monitor should both play a roll in the seating assignments.

What to do with the severe behavior problem:

1. If it becomes necessary due to the severity of the problem, an Incident Report will be prepared by the bus monitor and given to the FRS in charge. (The Bus Driver may also file an Incident Report.)

2. If the problem persists, another Incident Report must be written and passed along to the FRS in charge. At this time, the FRS should ride the next route with the Monitor to observe the problem. If the problem persists, the FRS will have a meeting with the classroom Teacher, parents, FRS, Bus Driver and Monitor to develop a plan of intervention to correct the behavior problem.

A Few things Monitors and Bus Drivers should remember:

Watching children develop and grow socially and intellectually is one of the most satisfying things you will ever do. You can feel proud that you played a small role in their development. It is an honor bestowed on you when you become a Bus Driver or Monitor.

1. Remember positive behaviors do not just happen without advanced planning.
2. Consistency in application of a behavior management plan is important to the success of the plan.
3. Never promise a child anything you cannot deliver.
4. Administer all discipline from the heart.
5. Eye contact is very important in communication.
6. Never threaten a child.

It takes a team effort and planning by the Monitor, Bus Driver, FRS, classroom Teacher, Teacher aide and parents to create the behaviors and positive atmosphere that produces a safe positive outcome that is enjoyable by all.