

Riding the School Bus

A free printable social story for ages 4-9

New bus riders often worry about the noise, the crowd, and not knowing where to sit. This story previews each step of the ride so children in special education programs, or any anxious first-timer, can rehearse it in advance. It works well alongside a practice walk to the bus stop.

Some days I ride the school bus.

The bus is big and yellow, and it stops near my home.

The bus driver's job is to drive everyone safely to school.

I wait for the bus to stop all the way before I step on.

I climb the steps one at a time and find a seat.

I sit on my bottom and keep my backpack in my lap.

The bus can be loud and bumpy. That is how buses are.

If the noise bothers me, I can look out the window or wear my headphones.

Other kids ride the bus too. Some talk, and some sit quietly.

The bus stops at school, and I wait my turn to walk off.

Riding the bus is one way I get to school.

Each ride helps me feel more comfortable on the bus.

Tips for Reading This Story Together

- Walk to the bus stop together a few times before the first ride so the route and waiting spot feel familiar.
- If your district offers a practice bus day or open house, take it, and read the story the same week.
- Add your child's actual bus number and driver's name to the story if you know them.
- For noise-sensitive kids, pack headphones or earmuffs in the backpack and mention them during each reading.

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