

MYSTERY

Tip #8 School Bus Safety

BUS SAFETY THEATER

WHO CAUSED THE ACCIDENT?

Case 1:

Parent "A" decides to pick up a first-grade son by car at the bus stop to save time in getting to an after-school appointment. Parent "A" pulls up and parks across the street from the stop just as the bus arrives. From inside the bus the boy sees parent "A" across the street; he gets off, runs in front of the bus and into the street toward parent "A", is struck by an on-coming car and seriously injured. Who caused the accident?*

Honey, I'm over here!



OK, Mom



Case 2:

Parent "B" regularly walks a second-grade daughter to and from the bus stop. Running late one morning, parent "B" puts the girl in the family car and drives to the stop. Seeing the bus already there and about to depart, parent "B" pulls into the stop in front of the bus and tells the second-grader to get out and go to the bus. Parent "B's" car is half-in and half-out of the space in front of the bus and a passing truck clips its left rear end, just as the girl is getting out of the car. While parent "B" is only shaken up, the second-grader is thrown into the street and suffers a broken arm, scrapes and bruises. Who caused the accident?*

*Solution:

In both cases, the common cause of the accident was what the parent did. In case 1, the child impulsively ran to the parent across the street, perceiving no danger in between; the key word is impulsive: primary age children often act without thinking. In case 2, running late was compounded by bad parental decisions and unsafe actions—chasing the bus is never a good choice and parking in front of, or behind, the bus at the stop invites an accident to happen.

When taking your children to or picking them up at the bus stop:

- ☑ ALWAYS arrive at the stop before the bus does.
- ☑ ALWAYS park well away from the stop itself.
- ☑ ALWAYS stand at the stop with your children until the bus arrives and stand at the stop to wait for your children to arrive.
- ☑ NEVER drive up to or park at the stop itself to drop off or pick up your children.
- ☑ NEVER stand and wait across the street from the stop and never sit and wait in your parked car.
- ☑ NEVER, if you are late, chase the bus, or try to flag it down.

Lifesaving Rule

Teach your children that they must never cross the street in front of or behind the bus to meet you, because traffic does not stop for school buses in Europe.

Teach them to stay at the stop until you come and get them.