




Toronto Student Transportation Group

TSTG

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TSTG

▶ Preparing Your Child to Use Public Transit Safely



ASK THE EXPERTS

The Toronto Transit Commission has a wealth of information available in a variety of formats. Please visit them at www.ttc.ca or contact them at 416-393-4636 for more information.



Safety Rules

Before travelling by Public Transit, it is recommended that children know and be able to demonstrate the rules outlined in this pamphlet. Misbehaviour by a student jeopardizes the safety of all those who ride



The TTC Logo is recognizable throughout the City of Toronto.

the bus, streetcar, or subway. Breaches of discipline may result in the withdrawal of transportation privileges.

Your child:

- must know and be able to demonstrate these basic safety rules:

- walking on sidewalks
- crossing the street at intersections or cross walks
- knowing and obeying traffic signals
- not going away with strangers
- knowing how to get help

- When possible, should not board a heavily crowded bus or subway car. (This is not always possible during rush hour traffic).
- If possible, should sit at the front of the vehicle, near the driver.
- Should keep head and arms inside the vehicle.
- In subway stations, should use the DWA (Designated Waiting Area) when waiting for a subway train.
- Should be acquainted with alarm systems located on trains and at subway stations.



Watch for passing vehicles when de-boarding streetcars

Preparing Your Child for Safe, Independent Travel

- Should carry identification noting name, address, home phone number, parent work tel. number(s) and a neighbor's telephone number, if possible.
- Describe the route to your child. A hand-drawn map showing main streets, intersections and transfer points is essential.
- Travel the route with your child, pointing out familiar landmarks along the route. The child must be able to recognize landmarks preceding



the stop and landmarks following a stop that would help the child recognize that has gone past their stop.

- Occasionally, a seat may not be available. Show your child how to stand with feet apart, braced for sudden stops. Demonstrate how school bags and other articles should be placed for the safety of all passengers.
- Have your child travel the first part of the route alone, assuring that you will meet the child at the transfer point and will complete the route together. If possible, give child a cell phone on the dry run or the parent ride in another car on the train to monitor their journey.
- Have your child take the entire route alone, assuring that you will meet the child at the destination.
- Have your child take the entire trip alone and unannounced meet the child at the destination.
- At each stage of the dry run process, find out whether or not the child has made mistakes or

encountered problems. Help to correct mistakes and/or identify ways to deal with problems.

- Remember fare or exact change. Some entrances take tokens only. Child should be prepared for this. Have change available for a telephone call in the event that problems arise. If you get into difficulty, ask for help from TTC Personnel such as a driver or station collection, etc. Some entrances have no TTC personnel.
- In an emergency dial 911 from a public telephone. No coin is required.

Your child should now be ready to travel the route independently.
After taking the trip a few times your child will not be apprehensive travelling the route alone and will move a step further on the road to independence.



When waiting for the bus please respect both TTC and private property