

“Bring Our Missing Children Home”

Thinking Skills Lesson Plan

Overview

The goal of this exercise is to promote awareness among students and engage them in making choices that can keep them safe from abduction.

Activity 1

Use the school bus board game to promote discussion about abduction, prevention, and safety. Students should apply their knowledge about safety to navigate the Department of Justice school bus back to its safest destination — home.

Directions: Read the sentences on the School Bus Maze Student Handout aloud to your students. Students should indicate whether the statement is true or false. Once students have chosen their best answer, their option will determine how the bus navigates through the game. Students who have chosen the correct answer may roll the dice to determine how many steps forward they can take. Those who answer incorrectly must skip a turn. The student who brings the school bus home first wins!

You will need:

- Small dice printout (one per student).
- Printable board game (one per student).
- School Bus Maze Student Handout (one for teacher).

Activity 2

Discuss the dangers presented in activity #1 and provide students with the correct answers. Next, have students create an 8½” x 14” poster that demonstrates the significance of the theme “Bring Our Missing Children Home.” The posters may incorporate some of the themes presented in the school bus board game, or illustrate the creativity of the students. The poster contest application requires students to elaborate on the concept of their poster and explain why they chose their particular design. It may be helpful to have students reflect back to activity # 1 and your discussions on safety and abduction when completing the application.

You will need for each student:

- 8½” x 14” paper.
- Poster contest application.
- Crayons, color pencils, markers or other drawing utensils.

Note: Activity 1 should be completed in small groups or as a class. Each group of students should have a separate board game. If students have difficulty deciding which situations present danger, ask them to role play the situation as presented or brainstorm to create scenarios of their own.

“Bring Our Missing Children Home” School Bus Maze Student Handout

Directions: Read the following sentences and ask students to indicate whether they believe the statement is true or false. Their answers will direct the school bus through the maze. Choose the best answer to determine how many steps you should take to bring the Department of Justice school bus home safely. If students answer correctly, they may roll the dice. If students answer incorrectly, they must skip a turn.

| Questions | Answer |
|---|--------|
| 1. I should always check with my parents, guardians, or other trusted adults before getting into a car. | True |
| 2. I must always check with my parents, guardians, or other trusted adults before accepting gifts from strangers or those I do not know well. | True |
| 3. My parents or guardians should always know where I am and who I am with. | True |
| 4. I should never give out my personal information to others online. | True |
| 5. I will tell a trusted adult if anything makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. | True |
| 6. It is NOT OK to travel places alone. | True |
| 7. When home alone, it is OK to open the door for strangers or for those I do not know well. | False |
| 8. I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information online that makes me feel uncomfortable. | True |
| 9. I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission. | True |
| 10. I should never agree to meet someone or have them visit without the permission of my parents. | True |
| 11. There will always be someone to help me, and I have the right to be safe. | True |
| 12. I should always take a friend when going places or playing outside. | True |
| 13. It is OK to walk alone at night. | False |
| 14. When home alone, it is OK to not answer the door for strangers. | True |
| 15. When going to/ from the school bus, I should always walk with friends. | True |
| 16. When approached by a stranger, I should get away quickly and tell a trusted adult immediately. | True |
| 17. If I am lost, I should look for a police officer or other trusted adult (security guard, cashier, etc.) | True |
| 18. It is important to know my home address and telephone number. | True |
| 19. It is OK to tell others when I am home alone. | False |

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