

ASSET-BUILDING IDEAS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Transporting children and youth from place to place is a big responsibility in terms of safety (asset #10) and the boundaries-and-expectations assets (# 11-16). You also can make the experience a positive time for yourself and your passengers by focusing on asset building. Here are ideas on how to get started:

- In addition to paying attention to safely transporting students, think of yourself as an adult role model for them.
- Post the list of assets on your bus.
- Be clear from the first time students ride your bus about the behavior you expect from them. Know what consequences you can enforce and who you can go to for support.
- Get to know the names of the young people who ride on your bus. Greet them when they get on and off the bus.
- If you regularly drive for the same team or group of young people, get to know them. For example, if you drive the volleyball team whenever it has a game, drop in on a meet and watch the young people play. Talk with them afterward about how it went.
- Hang up newspaper clippings and pictures of young people who ride your bus in the front of the bus. One bus driver plastered the area above his windshield with photographs, mementos, and news clippings about students. The riders love seeing their pictures. Some even drew pictures for the bus driver to hang up in the bus.
- Make the atmosphere on the bus supportive and fun within safety limits. Talk with the kids, play music that is appropriate for young people, tell them jokes.
- Get to know the bullies on the bus. Take a course in peaceful conflict resolution (#36), and--based on what you learn--talk with the bullies about alternative ways to act around other young people. Let them know you won't tolerate bullying.
- Talk with other drivers about creative solutions to problems and how to make buses places to build assets.

