

## “Bring our Missing Children Home” Thinking Skills Lesson Plan

**Overview:** The goal of this exercise is to promote awareness as well as engage students in making choices that can keep them safe from abduction.

**Activity 1:** Utilize the school bus board game to promote discussion regarding abduction, prevention, and safety. Students should utilize their knowledge on safety to navigate the DOJ School Bus back to its safest destination, home.

**Directions:** Read the phrases aloud to your students. Students should indicate whether the phrase is true or false. Once the 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 they should take. Those who have answered incorrectly must skip a turn. The student who brings the school bus home first wins!

**You will need:**

- **Small dice printout**
- **Printable board game**
- **School Bus Maze Handout**

**Activity 2:** Discuss those dangers presented in Activity #1 and provide students with the correct answer. Next, have your students create an 8 ½ x 14 poster to demonstrate the significance of the theme “Bring our Missing Children Home Safely”. The posters may incorporate some of the themes present in the school bus maze, or illustrate the creativity of the students. The poster contest application requires students to elaborate on the concept of their poster and why they chose that particular design. It may be helpful to have students reflect back to Activity # 1 and your discussions on safety & abduction to complete the application.

**You will need:**

- 8 ½ x 14in paper
- Poster contest application
- Crayons, color pencils, markers drawing utensils, etc.

**Note:** This assignment should be completed in groups or as a class. Each student and/or group should have their own board game. If students have difficulties deciding which situations present danger, have them role play or brainstorm to create scenarios of their own.

# “ Bring Our Missing Children Home ”

## School Bus Maze

**Directions:** Read the following phrases, and state whether you believe whether phrase is true or false. Your answer will direct your school bus maze. Choose the best answer to determine how many steps you should take to bring the Department of Justice School Bus home safely. If you have answered correctly, you may roll the dice. If you have answered incorrectly, you must skip a turn.

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

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School Bus Maze

