

Social Story: Using Public Transit to get to School

Some students who live close to school are able to walk to school. Other students who live farther away catch a school bus. As students get older and more independent they learn to take Calgary Transit to school. Taking Calgary Transit to school is good practice for when I get a job and have to take transit to go to work.

Taking Calgary Transit is different from taking a school bus. The bus driver on the school bus knows where the school is. I just need to sit safely on the bus while the bus driver drives the bus to the school. When I take Calgary Transit, I need to plan a route that will take me to school before I head out to the bus stop. My parents and caregivers can help me plan the route using the Calgary Transit website. If I have trouble remembering the important information I can print my travel plan off and take it with me so that I can refer back to it while I am on the bus.

There are many different Calgary Transit buses. I can tell which bus I need by looking at the bus number and destination that are displayed on the front of the bus. If I am unsure, which bus is the right bus I can ask the bus driver when I board if the bus is the right one from my travel plan. The driver is busy concentrating on driving safety when the bus is moving so I try to ask questions when the bus is stopped. It is easier to ask the driver questions if I sit close to front of the bus.

Bus maps and schedules also help me to know where the bus stop is and the time the bus will arrive at the stop. Sometimes these schedules are confusing so my caregiver helps me simplify them. I know that the buses have to follow a schedule cannot wait for me if I am late. With the help of my caregiver, I create a plan for if I miss the bus so that I am prepared, and know what to do.

When I get on the bus, I show the driver my bus pass. I have a special, safe place for my bus pass so that I do not lose it. I know I must keep my personal items safe when I am on the bus. I hold onto my personal items and I take them with me when I get off the bus.

I stay alert when I am on the bus and look at where the bus is going. My prepared travel plan helps me know where the bus is and how long it takes to get to school. I have landmarks and places listed on my travel plan that help me to know when I need to ring the bell to let the driver know when I want to get off the bus.

Catching Calgary Transit to School:

- I prepare a travel plan in advance and print it off to take with me when I am traveling to school.
- I create a plan for if I am late and miss the bus.
- I always look at the bus number and destination before getting on the bus (I can also ask the driver when I get on the bus if it is the right bus).
- I show the bus driver my bus pass and then put my bus pass away in a safe place.
- I stay alert when I am on the bus and look for the landmarks that let me know when I need to get off the bus.
- I keep my possessions safe when I am on the bus by holding them and I take all my possessions with me when I get off the bus.

