

Cool Tool of The Week

Automobile skills 1-using soft voices/staying in your personal space

Expectation: Be Respectful, Be Safe

Purpose of the lesson? Why it is important:

1. To uphold a respectful and safe environment while riding the car.

Teaching Examples: The following presents situations that your child might find himself/herself in. Use these examples to discuss with your child how to make good decisions about how to ride safely and respectfully in the car.

- It is time to go to soccer practice but your child doesn't want to go. You insist that we have to leave now or you will be late. Your child is upset when getting into the car and begins to shove the soccer equipment around and complaining loudly. Ask your child how he/she can express his/her feelings and be respectful and safe.
- Two siblings or two kids are arguing over who gets to sit in the front seat on the way to the store. You decide that they can both sit in the back. While in the back they continue arguing and one kid moves into the others space. Talk about how each kid might feel angry and how it could escalate into a fight. What could they do instead when you remind them to settle down (Start a conversation with you, take out a book or puzzle to do)?
- Your child is in the car with his/her uncle or other relative. The uncle tells your child to go ahead and choose the radio station. He/she chooses a station and turns the volume up real loud. The uncle turns the volume down. Your child thinks it's a game and turns it back up. The uncle turns the radio off. Talk about how your child could avoid this from happening by being respectful and safe in the car.

Kid Activities/Role Plays:

1. Have your child demonstrate what an appropriate voice tone in a car sounds like.
2. With your child, make a list of activities he (she) can do while traveling in the car (Ex. talking, practicing math facts or spelling words, singing, playing travel games).

Follow-up/Reinforcement Activities:

1. Remind your child of the expectations of being respectful and safe in the car *before* getting into the car.
2. Thank your child a couple times during the car ride for using appropriate behavior.
3. If your child is not following the expectations, pull over and wait until he/she stops the inappropriate behavior and begins to follow automobile expectations.