

MONICA AND MAUDE BETTER IN THE BACK SEAT

Learning Objectives: Students will

1. Identify ways to avoid injury.
2. Explain the need for protective equipment.
3. Listen critically to interpret and evaluate.
4. Participate in a discussion about safety in passenger travel.
5. Create materials to express an idea.

TEKS: ELAR Health 2.3A, 2.5C; Math (How tall are you?) 2.3B, 2.12D; SS-2.19A, 2.28A, 2.30A

Materials Needed: Puppets, script

Vocabulary: Protection, safety belt, booster seat, passenger

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce lesson by enacting the puppet exchange using the attached script.
2. Ask students to respond to puppets' conversation by relaying any experiences they may have had regarding travel safety, how a safety belt is supposed to fit, and what the law says: children must sit in the back seat in a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall. Then, they should sit in the back seat with a regular seat belt until age 13. Safety belts **must** be used by people of all ages to be completely safe.
3. Thinking more broadly, make a list of other safety rules we all follow, such as bicycle helmets, safety belts, batting helmets for baseball, and others.
4. Divide the class into groups of three. Each group will create a 30-second radio spot encouraging the use of booster seats for 4-7 year olds, back seat safety belts for 8-12 years olds, safe travel speeds, safety belts for all passengers, or other safe practices.
5. Radio spot should include a song, jingle, or motto as well as current law regarding travel safety.
6. Students will perform their radio spots for the entire class.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Students will research safety statistics involving children located at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or other available websites.

MONICA AND MAUDE SCRIPT BETTER IN THE BACK SEAT

Monica: Hey, Maude, do you ever get to sit in the front seat?

Maude: No, I always sit in the back. Do you sit in the front?

Monica: Yep, sometimes, if I really beg. I know just how to do it.

Maude: But, Monica, that's not safe. Don't you know about the airbags?

Monica: Sure. Airbags are designed to keep you from hitting the windshield in the case of a crash.

Maude: Yes, that's true for adults, but they can be dangerous for kids.

Monica: Dangerous? How?

Maude: Well, those air bags rip out of there really fast when a car is in a crash. How would you like to be blasted by one of those things?

Monica: Then how come they're safe for adults?

Maude: Think about it, genius! Adults are taller and bigger. Air bags are designed for grown-ups. But for kids, it's a blast right in the ol' kisser – right in the face! You don't want that to happen. That would knock you into next week! Manufacturers are trying to make airbags without as much force, but for now, they're just too powerful for kids.

Monica: But it's boring in the back seat. I want to get my music on the radio and watch for my friends. And besides, my mom and dad are safe drivers. They never have wrecks.

Maude: Don't be silly! It's the other guys you have to look out for. Crashes can happen to anybody! And if that does happen, you're much safer in the back seat with your safety belt fastened. Besides that, it's the LAW. The back seat is better until you're a teenager!

Monica: OK, OK, you may just have a point there. I never thought of it that way. Maybe I should stick to my favorite place in the back seat. I can bug my little brother in the back seat, too.

Maude: Now you're talking, but leave your little brother alone. You don't want to distract the driver. Play it smart and be safe!