



### Teaching Transportation Skills Tip Sheet

Transportation is *essential* for independence. While transportation skills may seem intuitive, it is important to explicitly teach these skills to students with disabilities to ensure they can access the community and live more independently after high school. Transportation skills training is an all-encompassing term that can be broken down into many parts. Choosing a transit option, personal and road safety, planning, reading and following signs, and navigation are all components of transportation skills training. It is important to remember that transportation options will vary by location, and students will have different goals for the future. Thus, transportation training must be individualized for each student.

#### What Transportation Skills Are Important for Students to Learn?

##### Choosing a Transit Option

- Know which transit options are available in the local community
- Practice using multiple transit options
- Choose a preferred transit option but also have a backup if the preferred method is not available

##### Personal and Road Safety Skills

- Ask appropriate people for help
- Cross the street safely
- Ensure personal belongings are safe
- Remain safe if the vehicle breaks down
- Carry transit fare safely
- Know address and phone number
- Only tell appropriate people personal information
- Let someone know if something goes wrong

##### Reading and Following Skills

- Recognize numbers
- Read transportation schedules
- Identify traffic signals and pedestrian signals
- Follow the signs

##### Planning Trips

- Know how to prepare for a trip
- Determine how much time a trip will take



- Plan what to do if they arrive early
- Plan what to do if their transit is late
- Plan how to remain safe while on the trip and during any down time
- Research how to navigate to the location

### **Navigation Skills**

- Follow directions
- Read maps
- Use navigation technologies

## **How Can I Teach Transportation Skills?**

### **At Home**

Create a task analysis about how to use a ride-share app like Lyft. Have the student follow the task analysis to request a ride-share to take the family to a place in the community.

### **In the Classroom**

Create a list of actions that a student can take if their car breaks down. Provide students with the list and role play the situation. Then encourage students to leave a copy of the list in their car in case of an emergency.

### **At School**

Go to the school parking lot or gym and have students move from one side to the other. Lift different safety signs as the students move and see if they follow the signs or not.

### **In the Community**

Take the public bus to a community location. Tell the students what time they need to return to the bus. When it is time to go back, intentionally make the students late. Have them problem-solve what to do next.

## **Transportation Goals**

### **Postsecondary Goal**

After high school, Tyrone will take the public bus to and from Southwest Tennessee Community College.

### **Annual Goal**

Given a bus schedule and a destination name, Tyrone will identify the bus number that he needs to take within 5 minutes in 3 out of 4 trials for one consecutive week as measured daily by a teacher-made data sheet by December.

### **Transition Service**

Tyrone will participate in transportation training through Vocational Rehabilitation's Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

*Last Updated September 25, 2020*