

## Transporting Pre-K: Why Is It Different?

WHY IS IT MORE DIFFICULT TO TRANSPORT CHILDREN AGE FIVE AND UNDER?  
WHY ARE CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGE OF FIVE AND EIGHT EQUALLY DIFFICULT TO TRANSPORT?

These questions can be answered by considering the information presented at the recent Mid-State Transportation Conference held in Chicago May 28 through May 31, 1998. Ted Finlayson-Schueler, Syracuse, NY, (Pupil Transportation Safety Institute) pointed to the following contributing factors that must be considered when transporting young children.

- \* Drivers can lose sight of very young children as opposed to bigger, older students.
- \* Small children have been known to climb into wheel wells.
- \* Young children can be thrown more easily from their seat.
- \* Young children are most often left on the school bus at the end of a route, posing danger to the child in excess heat or cold.
- \* Younger children do not process sounds as do advanced children.
- \* Younger children have 1/3 less peripheral vision than older children.
- \* Younger children have less attention span than older children.
- \* Younger children do not judge moving objects well (do not perceive an approaching vehicle's changing size as a threat).
- \* The size of a young child makes it difficult to step up on school bus steps.
- \* High windows do not allow younger children the ability to see out the school bus window.
- \* Seats and seat backs are not always appropriate for young children.

**\* Most importantly young children should be included in emergency evacuation drills and taught how to evacuate with other children.** If necessary, include second floor ladders as a precaution when school buses have roof hatches.