

BUS DRIVERS

TOURETTE SYNDROME

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Tourette Syndrome (TS) is a neurological disorder that causes involuntary vocalizations and movements. This is believed to be caused by an imbalance of a couple key chemicals in the brain. For a child with TS a request to “sit still and be quiet” is unobtainable.

What can help the bus ride?

- Preferential seating; close to students who understand the child
- Chewing gum or sucking on candy can sometimes help with vocal tics.
- The child feeling understood by you
- Be aware of bullying, mimicking and mocking
- Allow the child to listen to music or draw
- A child may need a small fidget toy to keep their hands occupied

*Please consider allowing these

What should you refrain from doing?

- Telling the child to stop ticcing (any movement, action or noise can be a tic)
- Yelling; will add to the child’s stress and increase tics
- Requiring the child to sit still and be quiet
- Labeling the child as BAD; many behaviors you see may be part of their disability

When a child has tried to suppress their tics all day they will have what is referred to as an ‘explosion’ at the end of the school day. This may occur on the bus rather than at home if the child is unable to hold tics in any longer. The child may experience a lot of tics, emotions and be frustrated.