**Behavior:** Automobile Skills (soft voices/personal space)

**Why/Purpose:** To be respectful and be safe in the car.

* To uphold a respectful and safe environment while riding in a car.

**Teaching Examples:** *The following are situations that your child might find him/herself in. Use these examples to discuss with your child how to make good decisions while riding in a car.*

* **Personal Space:** It is time to go to soccer practice but your child doesn’t want to go. You insist that you 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 complain loudly. Ask your child how he/she can express his/her feelings and be respectful and safe.
* **Arguing**: Two siblings (or two kids) are arguing over where they get to sit. They continue arguing when you start to drive. One kid moves into the others’ space while you are driving. Talk about how each kid might feel angry and how it could turn into a fight. Talk about how it is important not to move around while the car is in motion. 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)?
* **Volume:** 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 really 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.

**Activities/ Role Plays:**

1. Have your child demonstrate appropriate volume level for their voice in a car.

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).

3. Talk to your child about the importance of safety in a car. What are some things that might distract a driver? (loud noises, inappropriate actions, etc.)

**Follow-up/Reinforcement Activities:**

1. Remind your child of the expectations to being respectful and safe *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 car expectations.