

# BUCKIE BUCKLE PLAY – IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## *What is the Buckie Buckle play?*

Buckie Buckle is a play about car safety. It focuses on the main character, Buckie Buckle, and his encounters with various family members who do not want to wear their seatbelts. The play is intended to be acted by 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders (8-12 year olds).

## *Why should we put on this play?*

The Buckie Buckle play has been shown to increase children's knowledge and use of seatbelts, and also to raise awareness of car safety issues among the viewers of the play (who are usually the children's parents). So, by putting on this play you'll be educating children and their families about traffic safety.

## *How many main roles are there? What are they?*

There are 8 main roles. They are:

- Buckie Buckle (main character, male) – has the most lines
- Ben Buckle (Buckie's dad)
- Bridget Buckle (Buckie's mom)
- Grandpa
- Grandma
- Cousin (male)
- Cop (female)
- Narrator (adult or older child who can handle the responsibility)

There are also cue card holders (anywhere from 3-9 children)

## *Does it matter which kid plays which character?*

Yes. Although most of the characters have three lines that are not difficult to memorize, Buckie, the Cop, and the narrator have more. Buckie has 16 lines, but they are repetitive and short. The Cop has 5 lines, and they are the hardest to memorize due to length and content. Because of this, the child playing Cop should be a strong reader and capable of memorization. The narrator has the most lines (but these can be read at a podium). The narrator should be an adult or older child who is a strong reader.

There are also a few non-memorization roles in the play. One child will be needed to "drive" the 2<sup>nd</sup> car in each scene, and this character does not speak. Also, at least 3 kids will hold up hand-

made cue cards saying “CRASH”, “CLICK”, and “I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!” Every time these lines are said in the play, the cue card holders will hold up the appropriate poster and shout the line.



*What do I need to put on the Buckie Buckle play?*

At a **minimum**, you’ll need:

- Children to play the roles
  - o 7 kids to play the characters
  - o 1 narrator (adult or older kid)
  - o 3 kids to hold up hand-made safety cue cards at various points during the play
  - o 1 kid to “drive” 2<sup>nd</sup> car in each scene
- 2 cardboard (or other material) “cars” that the kids can fit into or hold up in front of them to simulate riding in a car. We worked with the art teacher to create our cars.
- Costumes for each character (see costume ideas attachment). Most of these costume elements can be purchased very inexpensively at a thrift store. Dressing up in costume makes the experience more fun for the kids!
- Cue cards (posters) with large dark block lettering
  - o CLICK
  - o CRASH
  - o I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED

Additional materials, if desired:

- Cymbals (or other instrument) to simulate the sound of cars crashing
- City landscape for the background



*How long should we practice before putting on the play?*

This really depends on the dedication of the kids to practice and learn their lines on their own, as well as know their movements on stage, but typically 6 practices at 30 minutes each will be enough time to master the play!



*How long does the play last?*

The play itself is very brief, only about 15 minutes. For this reason, it is easy to pair the play with another activity that involves the audience/family members, such as a potluck family dinner night, parent-teacher open house, or other activity showcasing children’s accomplishments. It can also be performed during school at the beginning of lunch periods.

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## BUCKIE BUCKLE CHARACTER COSTUMES



**Buckie (male):** \_\_\_\_\_

- jeans/khakis
- t-shirt
- sneakers

**Ben Buckle (Dad):** \_\_\_\_\_

- khakis/slacks
- collared, button-down shirt
- tie
- nice shoes

**Bridget Buckle (Mom):** \_\_\_\_\_

- dress or skirt and nice shirt
- dress shoes
- purse
- jewelry

**Grandpa:** \_\_\_\_\_

- slacks
- collared, button-down shirt
- jacket or sweater
- glasses
- rings
- chain
- fedora or other hat

**Grandma:** \_\_\_\_\_

- dress
- pearl or other fancy necklace
- glasses
- shawl
- dress shoes

**Cousin (male):** \_\_\_\_\_

- t-shirt or muscle shirt
- basketball or gym shorts
- sneakers

**Cop (female):** \_\_\_\_\_

- black collared shirt
- black pants
- black shoes
- police hat
- badge
- sunglasses
- small flip pad and pen



*Tip: print, cut, and tape this badge to a hat and shirt*

# BUCKIE BUCKLE: A PLAY FOR SAFETY



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## 8 Roles:

Narrator – stands on the edge of the stage and narrates events

Buckie Buckle – main character; male; ~10 years old; casual dress (as if going to school)

Ben Buckle – Buckie’s dad; ~35 years old; casual dress

Bridget Buckle – Buckie’s mom; ~35 years old; casual dress

Grandpa: ~ 60 years old; dressed extravagantly, with fancy shoes, cane, sunglasses, fur, rings, chain, etc.

Grandma: ~ 60 years old; fancy dress, high heels

Cousin: male; ~20 years old; very muscular and tall; athletic-looking; wearing a muscle shirt and ball shorts, sneakers

Cop: female; dressed like a police officer; sunglasses; carries a small flip notepad and pen

Cue card holders: A group of children who stand to the side of the stage and hold up cue cards and shout the words when prompted in the story

## Key Props:

Buckie’s family car – has to have a “back seat” for Buckie and “safety belts” – the car can be made of cardboard

2<sup>nd</sup> car

3 types of cue cards (posters) – CRASH!, CLICK!, I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!

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## Script:

[TEXT IN BRACKETS PROVIDE STAGE DIRECTION]

[\*\*\*NOTE: EVERY TIME “CLICK!”, “CRASH!”, OR “I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!” APPEAR IN THE SCRIPT, ALL CHILDREN ASSIGNED TO HOLD CUE CARDS SHOULD SHOUT THE WORDS AND HOLD UP THE CORRESPONDING SIGN FOR THE AUDIENCE TO CHIME IN.]

[THE PLAY BEGINS AS THE CURTAIN OPENS AND THE NARRATOR BEGINS READING THE STORY. PICTURED ON STAGE ARE BUCKIE AND BEN BUCKLE IN A CAR ON THE SIDE OF THE STAGE.]

*Narrator:* This is the story of Buckie Buckle. When Buckie Buckle was born and his parents brought him home from the hospital, Buckie’s parents buckled him into a child safety seat and Buckie Buckle’s first words were, “**I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!**”

[CAR BEGINS MOVING TO CENTER STAGE.]

*Narrator:* One day, many years later, Buckie Buckle went with his Dad, whose name was Ben Buckle, in the car to the gas station. Buckie Buckle pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] And he said...

[BUCKIE PUTS HIS BELT ON AND SAYS...]

*Buckie:* “**I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!**”

[ALL CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOULD REPEAT THIS LINE WHILE HOLDING UP THE APPROPRIATE CUE CARD]

*Narrator:* Buckie looked over and his Dad didn’t have his safety belt on. Buckie Buckle said,

*Buckie:* “Daddy, may I ask you a question?”

*Dad:* “Sure.”

*Buckie:* “Why don’t you have your safety belt on?”

*Dad:* “But Buckie, we are just going to get some gas on the next street.”

[BEN AND BUCKIE GET INTO A CRASH WITH ANOTHER CAR. A FEW SECONDS AFTER THE CRASH, THE COP PULLS UP IN HER CAR]

*Narrator:* Just then a car came around the corner and **CRASH!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CRASH” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s Dad hit his nose on the steering wheel.

*Cop:* “Ben Buckle, don’t you know that three out of four accidents happen close to home?”

*Narrator:* Three out of four! Buckie’s dad went to the hospital and got five stitches in his nose!

[THE CRASH CLEARS, AND ALL CHARACTERS EXIT AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES. IT THEN RE-OPENS AS IF IT IS THE FOLLOWING DAY. THIS OCCURS AS THE NARRATOR BEGINS HIS LINE. PICTURED ON THE STAGE ARE BUCKIE AND BRIDGET BUCKLE IN A CAR DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD.]

*Narrator:* The next day, Buckie Buckle went with his Mom, whose name was Bridget Buckle, in the car to the grocery store. Buckie Buckle pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] And he said...

*Buckie:* **“I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!”**

[ALL CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOULD REPEAT THIS LINE WHILE HOLDING UP THE APPROPRIATE CUE CARD]

*Narrator:* Buckie looked over and his Mom didn’t have her safety belt on. Buckie Buckle said,

*Buckie:* “Mommy, may I ask you a question?”

*Mom:* “Sure.”

*Buckie:* “Why don’t you have your safety belt on?”

*Mom:* “But Buckie, I have been driving for ten years and never had an accident.”

[BRIDGET AND BUCKIE GET INTO A CRASH WITH ANOTHER CAR – can be same car, but should have new student driving. A FEW SECONDS AFTER THE CRASH, THE COP PULLS UP IN HER CAR.]

*Narrator:* Just then a car came around the corner and **CRASH!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CRASH” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s Mom hit her head on the windshield.

*Cop:* “Bridget Buckle, don’t you know that every one of us can expect to be in an accident once in every 10 years?”

*Narrator:* Once every ten years! Buckie’s mom went to the hospital and got six stitches in her head.

[THE CRASH CLEARS, AND ALL CHARACTERS EXIT AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES. IT THEN RE-OPENS AS IF IT IS THE FOLLOWING DAY. THIS OCCURS AS THE NARRATOR BEGINS HIS LINE. PICTURED ON THE STAGE ARE BUCKIE AND GRANDPA IN A CAR DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD.]

*Narrator:* The next day, Buckie Buckle went with his Grandpa in the car to the bank. Buckie Buckle pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] And he said...

*Buckie:* **“I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!”**

[ALL CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOULD REPEAT THIS LINE WHILE HOLDING UP THE APPROPRIATE CUE CARD]

*Narrator:* Buckie looked over and his grandpa didn’t have his safety belt on. Buckie said,

Buckie: “Grandpa, may I ask you a question?”

Grandpa: “Sure.”

Buckie: “Why don’t you have your safety belt on?”

Grandpa: “But Buckie, I feel safe because my car has an airbag that will protect me in a crash.”

[GRANDPA AND BUCKIE GET INTO A CRASH WITH ANOTHER CAR – can be same car, but should have new student driving. A FEW SECONDS AFTER THE CRASH, THE COP PULLS UP IN HER CAR.]

Narrator: Just then a car came around the corner and **CRASH!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CRASH” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s grandpa hit his head on the roof of the car.

Cop: “Grandpa, don’t you know that airbags are just meant to keep you from hitting the steering wheel and dashboard? You need to wear your seatbelt to keep you from being thrown in a crash.”

Narrator: Airbags do not replace seatbelts! Seatbelts are important for keeping you secure in your seat. Buckie’s grandpa went to the hospital and got seven stitches in his head.

[THE CRASH CLEARS, AND ALL CHARACTERS EXIT AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES. IT THEN RE-OPENS AS IF IT IS THE FOLLOWING DAY. THIS OCCURS AS THE NARRATOR BEGINS HIS LINE. PICTURED ON THE STAGE ARE BUCKIE AND GRANDMA IN A CAR DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD.]

Narrator: The next day, Buckie Buckle went with his Grandma in the car to the shopping mall. Buckie Buckle pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] And he said...

Buckie: “**I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!**”

[ALL CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOULD REPEAT THIS LINE WHILE HOLDING UP THE APPROPRIATE CUE CARD]

Narrator: Buckie looked over and his Grandma didn’t have her safety belt on. Buckie said,

Buckie: “Grandma, may I ask you a question?”

Grandma: “Sure.”

Buckie: “Why don’t you have your safety belt on?”

Grandma: “But Buckie, the safety belt might make my dress wrinkled.”

[GRANDMA AND BUCKIE GET INTO A CRASH WITH ANOTHER CAR – can be same car, but should have new student driving. A FEW SECONDS AFTER THE CRASH, THE COP PULLS UP IN HER CAR.]

*Narrator:* Just then a car came around the corner and **CRASH!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CRASH” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s Grandma tore her dress on the turn signal and broke her leg.

*Cop:* “Grandma, don’t you know that lots of dresses get torn every year when more than 200 thousand people are injured in car accidents?”

*Narrator:* 200 thousand people! Buckie’s grandma went to the hospital and got a cast on her leg.

[THE CRASH CLEARS, AND ALL CHARACTERS EXIT AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES. IT THEN RE-OPENS AS IF IT IS THE FOLLOWING DAY. THIS OCCURS AS THE NARRATOR BEGINS HIS LINE. PICTURED ON THE STAGE ARE BUCKIE AND COUSIN IN A CAR DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD.]

*Narrator:* The next day, Buckie Buckle went with his cousin in the car to a football game. Buckie Buckle pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] And he said...

*Buckie:* “**I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!**”

[ALL CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOULD REPEAT THIS LINE WHILE HOLDING UP THE APPROPRIATE CUE CARD]

*Narrator:* Buckie looked over and his cousin didn’t have his safety belt on. Buckie Buckle said,

*Buckie:* “May I ask you a question?”

*Cousin:* “Sure.”

*Buckie:* “Why don’t you have your safety belt on?”

*Cousin:* “But Buckie, my huge SUV and my huge muscles will protect me so I won’t get hurt if we get in a crash.”

[COUSIN AND BUCKIE GET INTO A CRASH WITH ANOTHER CAR – can be same car, but should have new student driving. A FEW SECONDS AFTER THE CRASH, THE COP PULLS UP IN HER CAR.]

*Narrator:* Just then, a car came around the corner and **CRASH!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CRASH” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s cousin cut his huge muscles on the broken windshield.



Cop: “Cousin, don’t you know that when you are in a crash your body can weigh more than ten tons!”

Narrator: Ten Tons! Buckie’s cousin went to the hospital and got nine stitches in his arm.

[THE CRASH CLEARS, AND ALL CHARACTERS EXIT AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES. IT THEN RE-OPENS. THIS OCCURS AS THE NARRATOR BEGINS HIS LINE. PICTURED ON THE STAGE IS BUCKIE WEARING HIS SEATBELT IN A CAR DRIVING TO PICK UP ALL OF HIS RELATIVES. EACH CHARACTER GETS IN THE CAR AND BUCKLES HIS SEATBELT.]

Narrator: Finally, when Buckie grew up to be 16 years old, he got his own driver’s license. One day, he picked up all of his relatives. Buckie’s dad got in the car and pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s mom got in the car and pulled on her safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s grandpa got in the car and pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s grandma got in the car and pulled on her safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie’s cousin got in the car and pulled on his safety belt and made it go **CLICK!** [CUE CARD HOLDERS SHOUT “CLICK” AND HOLD UP SIGN] Buckie Buckle asked,

Buckie: “Why are you all buckling your buckles?”

All characters: “We love our buckles buckled!”

[CHILDREN HOLD UP APPROPRIATE CUE CARD]

Narrator: Make the Buckie Buckle Promise: I promise to always buckle my safety belt and say,

All children: “**I LOVE MY BUCKLE BUCKLED!**”