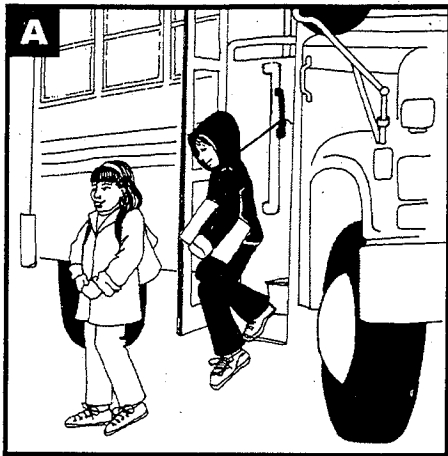


# TIP #11: HANDRAILS & DRAWSTRINGS: SCHOOL BUS HAZARD



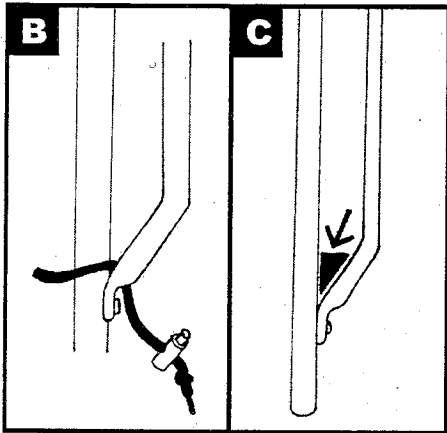
As a child gets off the bus, a drawstring or backpack strap can catch in the handrail.

## DRAWSTRINGS CAN BE DANGEROUS

Children's clothing, especially drawstrings, can cause death or injury. A drawstring can catch in a small gap in playground equipment, a bus handrail, or a bolt. As a child gets off the school bus, a dangling drawstring or loose object may catch in the handrail. If the bus doors close and the child isn't seen, she/he could be dragged and run over by the wheels (A).

Items that can cause these problems include:

- jackets, sweatshirts, and other clothing with drawstrings at the neck or waist
- backpack straps
- dangling key chains
- scarves
- belt buckles
- other loose items of clothing



How a drawstring can catch in the gap of a bus handrail.

One type of repair to a faulty handrail.

## SCHOOL BUS IMPROVEMENTS HELP REDUCE THE DANGER:

- School bus manufacturers and school districts have repaired or are repairing the handrails on old buses (B and C).
- New buses are being designed to make handrails safer.
- Bus drivers are trained to watch children as they get off the bus. Your child's bus driver should make sure each child has completely cleared the bus when leaving. He/she should look for clothing that could get caught.



These drawstrings are too long. They have large toggles that are more likely to catch.

Clothes without drawstrings are safer.

## SIMPLE STEPS MAKE CLOTHING SAFER:

- Choose clothes without drawstrings - snaps, Velcro, buttons, or elastic are better choices (D).
- Remove hood and neck strings.
- Remove drawstrings from the waist and bottom of coats.
- Warn children about dangling key rings, large buckles, and other objects hanging from their backpacks.