

BLUEY EPISODE GUIDE

Bus

DGO #4 · Grade 2 · Age 7+

Episode Name	Bus
Season & Episode	Season 2, Episode 22
Age Group	DGO #4 - Grade 2 (Age 7+)
Key Concept	Social risk is worth taking even when the outcome is messy — and the people who help you take those risks are the ones worth keeping close

ABOUT THIS EPISODE

The Heelers play Bus in their living room. Dad drives. Mum is a shy passenger secretly in love with the driver. Bluey and Bingo board as their granny alter egos: Janet and Rita. Rita has a pet snake that attacks the driver. Janet schemes relentlessly to buy Mum's character more time to confess her love. The bus loses its brakes. Chaos is sustained and excellent.

The twist: the bus driver is already married to a giraffe. Mum's character never gets to say what she needed to say, or if she does it doesn't go how anyone hoped. The grannies' response is to attack the driver. It's absurd and perfect. The vulnerability was real, the outcome was messy, and the people helping were magnificently unreliable. That's most social risk, honestly.

WHY IT MATTERS (FOR PARENTS)

This episode is slapstick on the surface and a lesson in vulnerability underneath. Connections don't just happen. Someone has to be brave enough to speak up, and sometimes you need a friend — or a scheming granny — to create the space for that bravery. Bluey-as-Janet is a six-year-old social facilitator, pulling the stop cord repeatedly, engineering diversions, creating moments. She's doing what good friends do: making room for the person who isn't quite ready yet.

The failed outcome is important too. Vulnerability doesn't always get rewarded with the hoped-for result. Sometimes you put yourself out there and the bus driver is already married to a giraffe. The episode doesn't make that tragic. It makes it funny and survivable and worth having tried. For a seven-year-old learning to navigate social risk, that's the most useful message in the episode: take the risk, keep your friends close, and if it doesn't go how you hoped, attack the bus driver.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (FOR YOUR CHILD)

1

Mum's character was too scared to tell the bus driver she loved him. Have you ever been too scared to say something to someone? What happened?

2

Janet kept pulling the stop cord to give Mum more time. Have you ever helped a friend be brave about something? What did you do?

3

The bus driver turned out to be married to a giraffe! How do you think Mum's character felt? Is it still worth being brave even when things don't work out?

4

The whole family played this game together in the living room. What makes pretend games like this fun even though everyone knows it's not real?

5

Rita and Janet were cheeky, loud, and a bit naughty — but they were also really good friends to Mum. Can someone be annoying AND helpful at the same time?

AFTER THE EPISODE — ACTIVITIES & EXTENSIONS

Try one of these to keep the learning going:

- Play Bus together. Assign roles, make it ridiculous, let it run wherever it goes. Afterwards, talk about what it felt like to be in a different character — did your character do things you wouldn't do yourself? What does that tell you about what's possible when you're playing someone else?
- Ask question two and let your child tell the story. The helping-a-friend-be-brave story is one of the most important social experiences a seven-year-old can have. Ask: what made you do it? Did it work? What did you notice about your friend when you helped?
- Talk about question three honestly. Is it worth being brave when the outcome is bad? The episode says yes — through comedy, which is the most honest way. Help your child think through why: what do you gain from trying, even when it doesn't go how you hoped?
- Ask question five and don't rush to resolve the paradox. Being annoying and helpful at the same time is real and worth sitting with. Can your child name someone in their life who fits? What makes that relationship work despite the friction?

Tip for parents: The game in this episode only works because everyone plays it fully. Bandit drives the bus. Chillli is shy and convincing. The grannies are completely committed. The quality of the fun is directly proportional to how much everyone invests. If you watch this and feel the particular warmth of a family that plays together with full commitment — that's not incidental. It's the whole point of the episode. When did you last play something silly with your whole self?