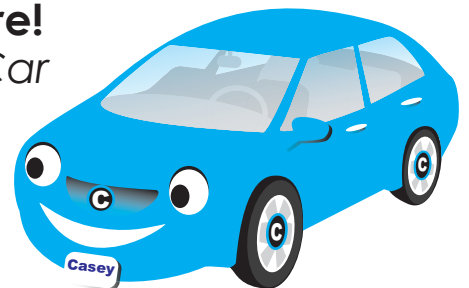


Casey's Clean Air Week



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Idling gets you nowhere!
— Casey the Careful Car



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A companion parent/guardian/teacher guide and children's activity book can be found at www.ct.gov/deep/anti-idling

This book is dedicated to
Lori, Lilli, and Noah

Safe-air Sunday

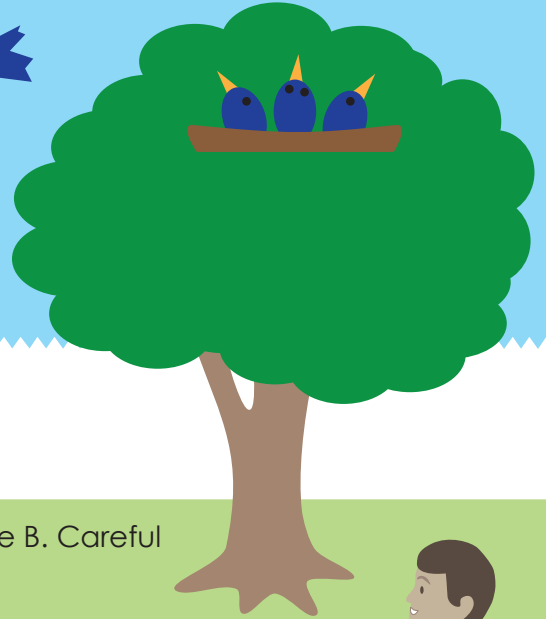
Meet the Careful family and their car, Casey

Please meet Casey the car:
He's smart, shiny, and blue.
He has a big goal,
And he needs help from you.

Casey's a car
With a serious mission:
He wants to keep air
In a clean, safe condition.

The family he works for—
The Carefuls by name—
Support Casey's efforts.
Their aim is the same.





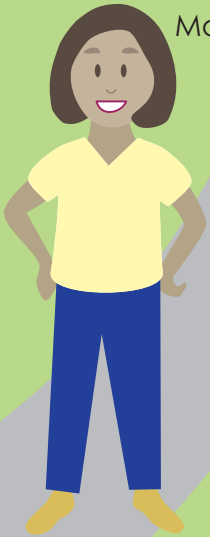
Susie B. Careful



Henry B. Careful



Mom



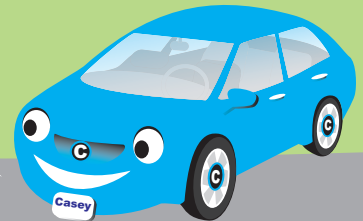
Grandma

Breathing dirty air can be tough—
Just ask people with asthma.
They may cough, wheeze, or gasp,
Like the Carefuls' dear Grandma.

The dirt in the air—
It's called **air pollution**—
Is bad for us all.
But Casey has some solutions.

Can you explain to the grownups in your family that
air pollution is bad for your health?

Can you explain to the grownups in your family that
air pollution is bad for the environment?



Here's how Casey and his family roll.

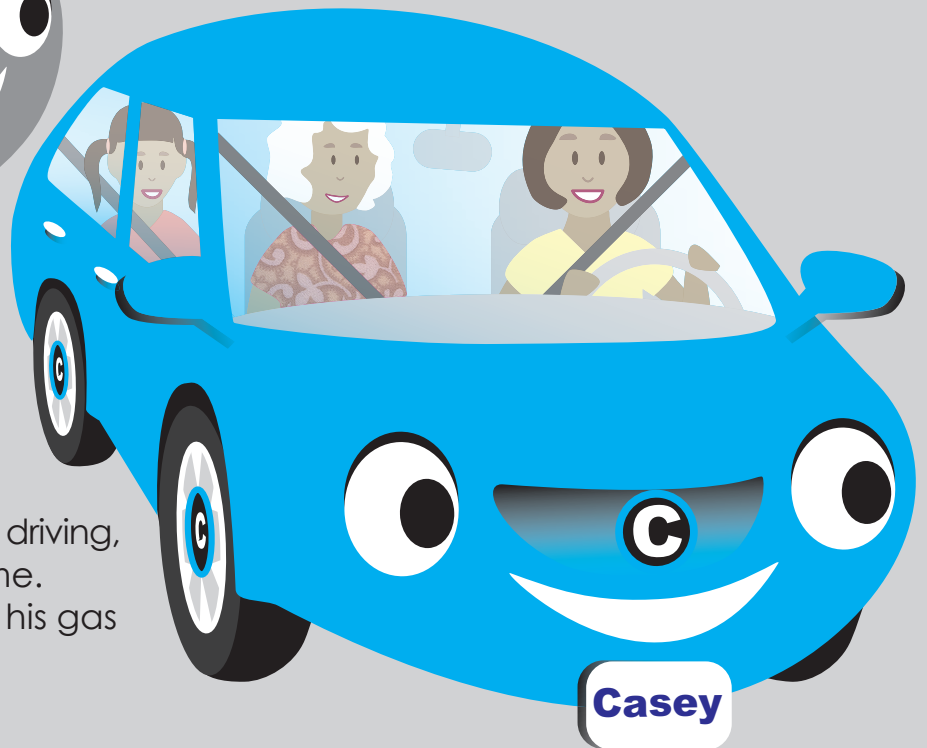
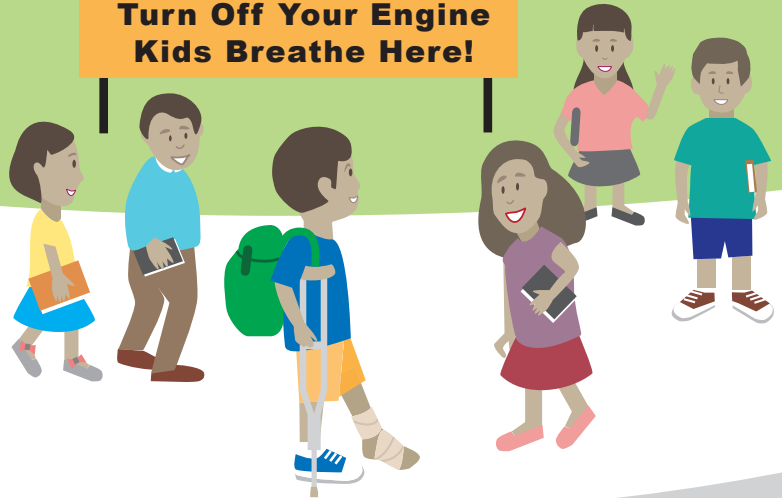
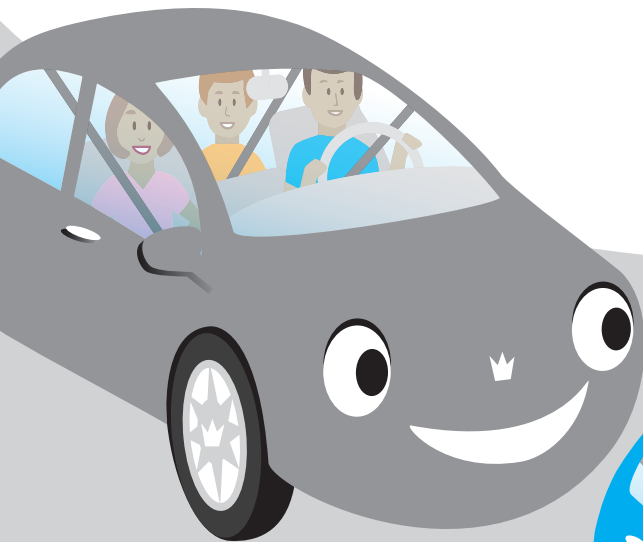
Move-on Monday

To keep pollution out of the air, Casey doesn't idle

On Monday morning early,
Our Casey starts his day.
He takes young Henry to his school,
And Susie off to play.

Most days Henry takes the bus,
But today Casey has to drive.
This morning Henry hurt his leg
So Casey helps him to arrive.

Turn Off Your Engine
Kids Breathe Here!



Casey warms up while he's driving,
Not while sitting still at home.
He doesn't want to waste his gas
By idling all alone.

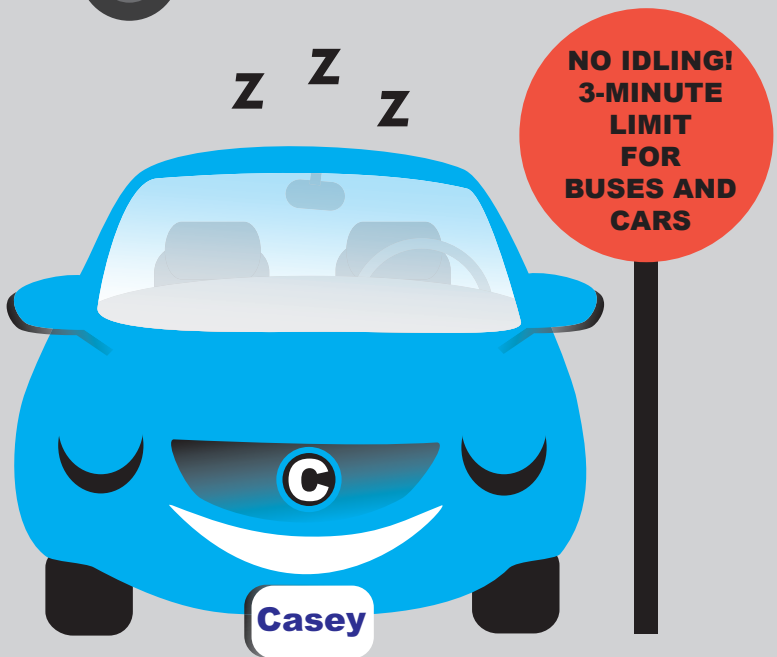
(Sitting with his engine on
Is called **idling**: it's not funny.
It puts pollution in the air we breathe
And wastes a lot of money.)



On Monday in the afternoon,
Casey picks Henry up at school.
To wait, he turns his engine off.
He's no polluting fool.

School buses must do as Casey does,
If they stop more than three minutes.
These vehicles don't idle long:
In his state, three's the legal limit.

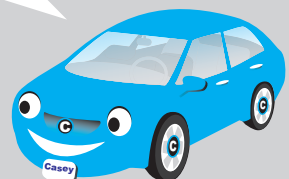
Casey turns his engine on
When he's ready next to drive.
He's kept dirt out of school kids' air.
Casey's earned a big high-five!



Can you explain to the grownups in your family that idling is bad for your health, pollutes the air, and wastes money?

Can you explain to the grownups in your family that many states have laws limiting the number of minutes your car can idle?

Can you help the grownups in your family remember to turn off the car (when it is safe to do so) if they have to wait more than three minutes?



Tune-up Tuesday

To keep running clean, Casey gets a tune-up

Whenever a car engine runs
It puts dirt into the air,
By burning smelly gasoline
To drive from here to there.

To keep their Casey running
Just as clean as ever he can,
Wise Mom and Dad B. Careful
Have a smart and steady plan.



They change the oil that Casey needs
As soon as it is due.
They tune up his fine engine
So this bright blue car runs true.





They check air in all his tires:
Not too much and not too little.
It saves their money and their gas,
And checking air makes Casey giggle.

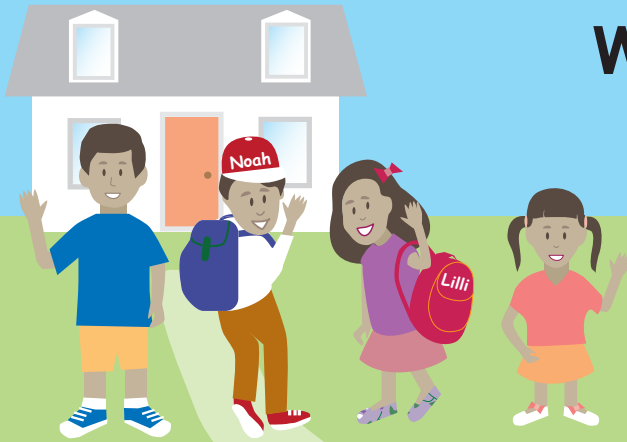
When Casey gets the proper care
His engine pollutes much less.
Thanks to timely tune-up service,
The air is not such a mess.

- Can you tell your family that pollution from cars can be in the air, even when you can't see it?
- Can you tell your family that almost all air pollution is invisible?
- Can you help the grownups in your family remember to change the oil in your car?
- Can you help the grownups in your family remember to check the air in the tires?



Waste-free Wednesday

To save gas, Casey combines trips
To reduce waste, Casey recycles



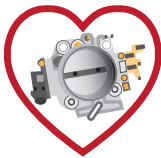
After school on Wednesday,
The kids go to visit friends.
So Casey has some hours free
To help with family errands.

Dad and Mom plan out their day
To combine all of their chores.
They save their time and gasoline
With just one trip to the store.

They neatly load up Casey's trunk
With clean cans and clean bottles.
They take them back to the grocery store.
Recycling them warms Casey's throttle.



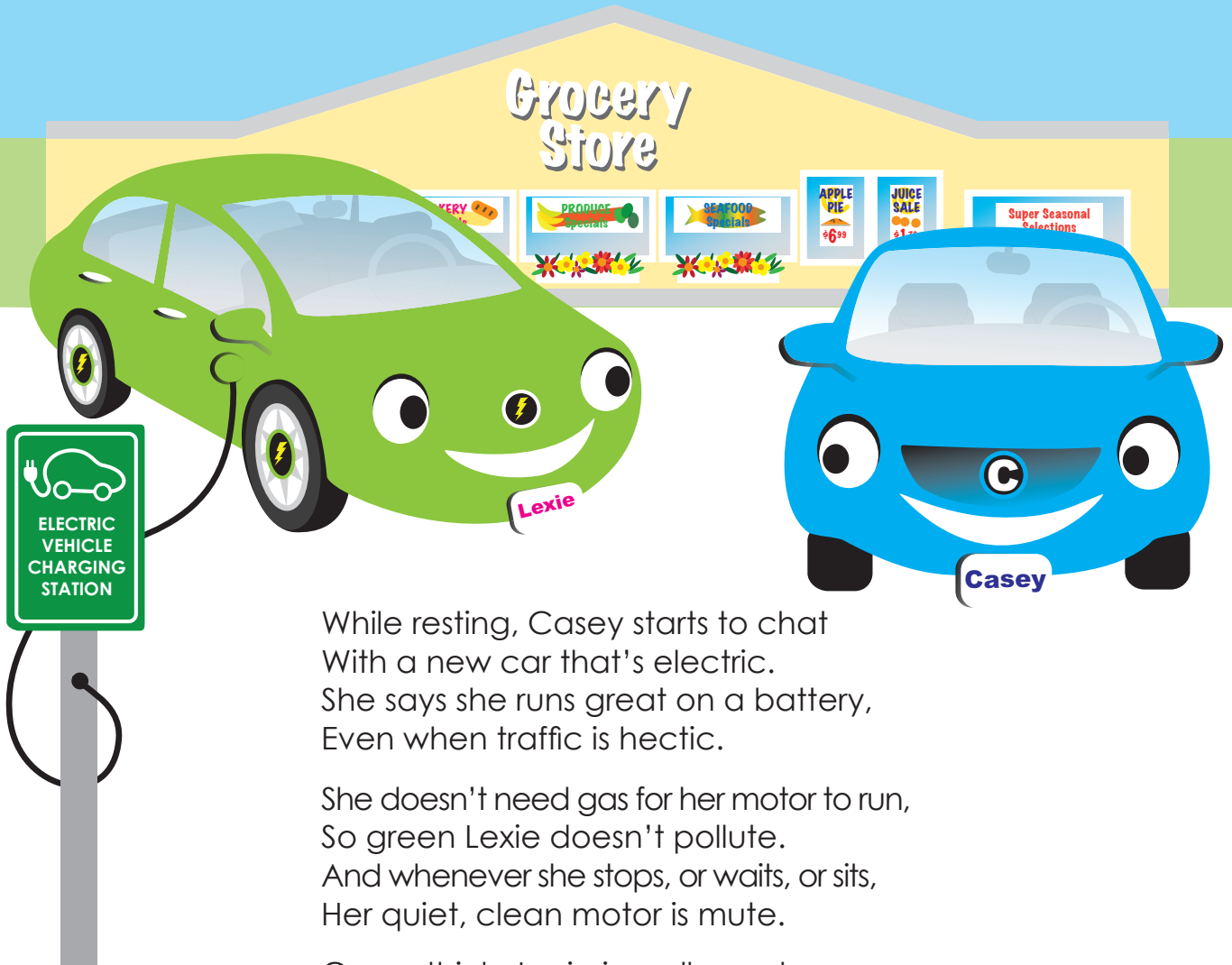
Casey's throttle



At the grocery store, wise Dad unloads
Clean metal, and plastic, and glass.
Returning these recyclable things
Keeps them out of the trash.

Smart Casey knows he must not idle
While Dad carefully loads and unloads,
So he takes a short rest with his engine off
Before hitting the busy roads.



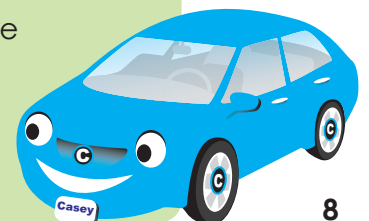


While resting, Casey starts to chat
With a new car that's electric.
She says she runs great on a battery,
Even when traffic is hectic.

She doesn't need gas for her motor to run,
So green Lexie doesn't pollute.
And whenever she stops, or waits, or sits,
Her quiet, clean motor is mute.

Casey thinks Lexie is really cool,
'Cause she doesn't waste any energy,
And she doesn't put dirt into the air:
She's a car for the 21st century.

- Can you help the grownups in your family recycle clean cans and bottles?
- Can you help the grownups in your family plan to combine trips to save time and energy?
- Can you think of other ways to save energy every day?
- Can you remind the grownups in your family not to idle when they're running errands?
- Can you tell the grownups in your family that electric cars don't pollute?

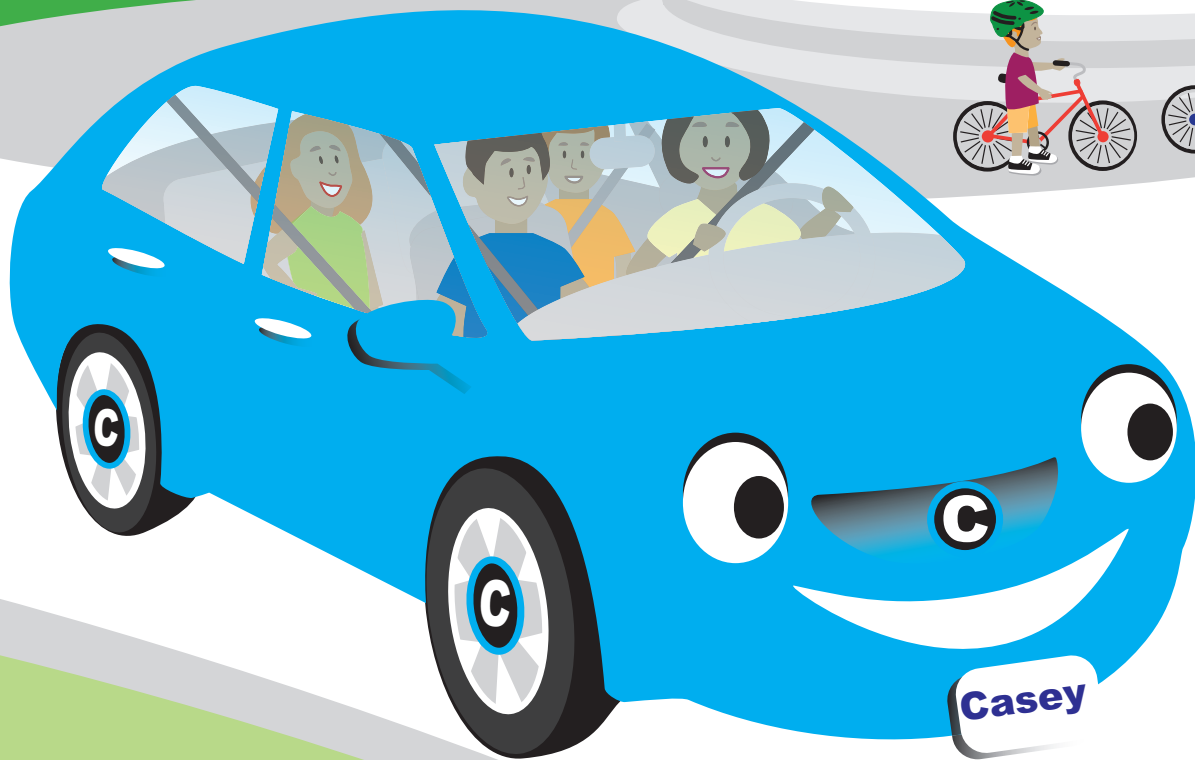


Thrifty Thursday

To save gas, Casey carpools

Thursday Henry and his friends
Stay late at school to study.
Casey picks the whole group up:
He's a kindly carpool buddy.

The kids are safely buckled in.
They laugh and chat along the way.
He takes them home in time for snack.
It's a cheerful carpool day.

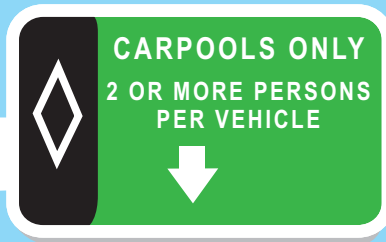


Sharing rides with other folks
Is carpooling: it's really clever.
It saves gas, and money, and time.
Carpooling is a pleasure.

**15 minute
pick-up zone
No idling!**

This week is Casey's turn to drive.
Taking turns is fair.
Next week someone else will drive.
Sharing rides supports clean air.

Carpooling saves a lot of gas
And limits air pollution.
It's one of the many things to do
To be part of a clean air solution.



Can you ask the grownups in your family whether they can sometimes carpool?



Car-free Friday

The Careful kids bike instead of riding in the car

On Friday after school each week
The kids bike to see their Grandma.
They know dirty air can hurt her lungs,
So they ask about her asthma.

Grandma says that air pollution,
From a car or truck or bus,
Makes her breathing so much harder,
For her, clean air's just a must.



Walking, strolling, running, biking—
All keep dirt out of the air.
Then Grandma breathes much easier,
And her asthma will not flare!

The kids love their lively Grandma.
To help keep her breathing strong,
They walk or bike when it is safe
And their journey is not too long.



Can you tell the grownups in your family why clean air is important?

Can you tell the grownups in your family how air pollution makes it hard for people with asthma to breathe?



Share-the-Message Saturday

Casey shares the clean-air message with cars everywhere

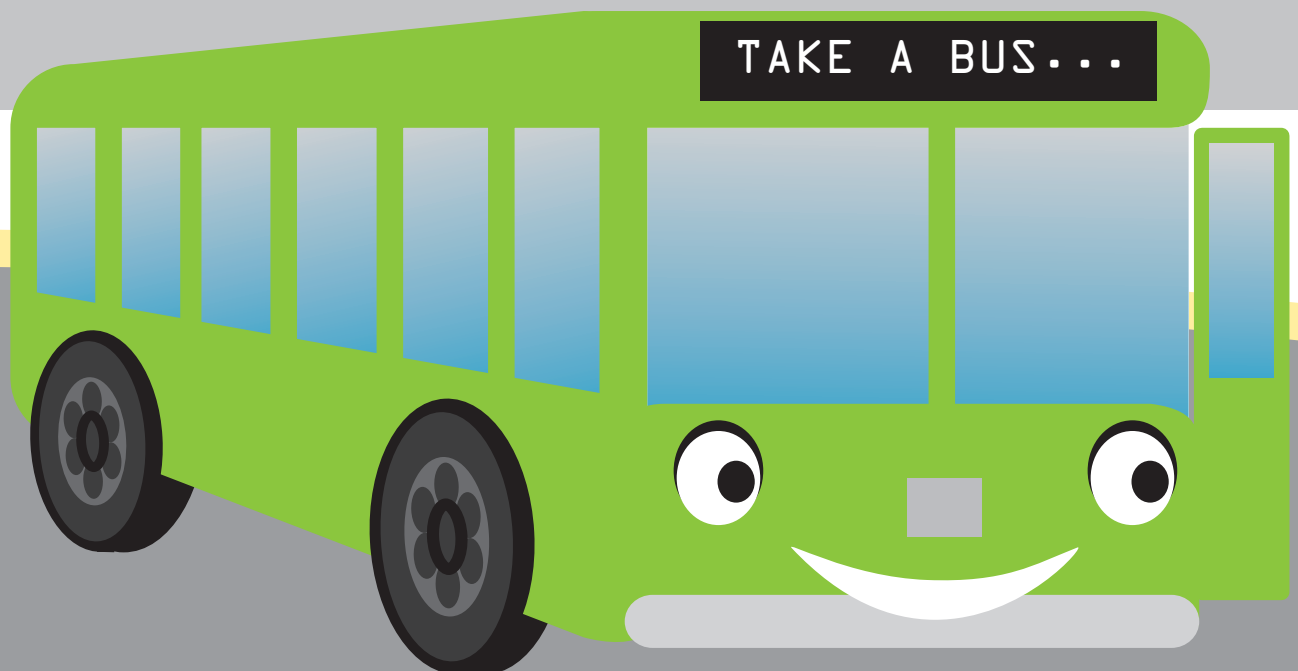
Dad Careful has gone on a trip:
He took a bus— he didn't drive.
He saved a lot of gas and stress.
He was relaxed when he arrived.

Today Dad's coming home again.
Casey meets him at the station.
When Dad travels on a bus or train
Casey has a short vacation.

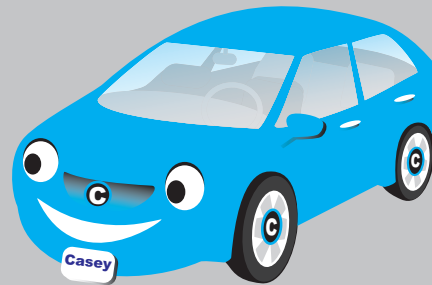
While Casey waits for Dad to come,
He turns off his busy engine.
He chats with other lot-parked cars
And answers all their questions.

They ask why he won't idle.
And why idling would matter.
Casey tells them all his reasons.
It's important idle chatter.

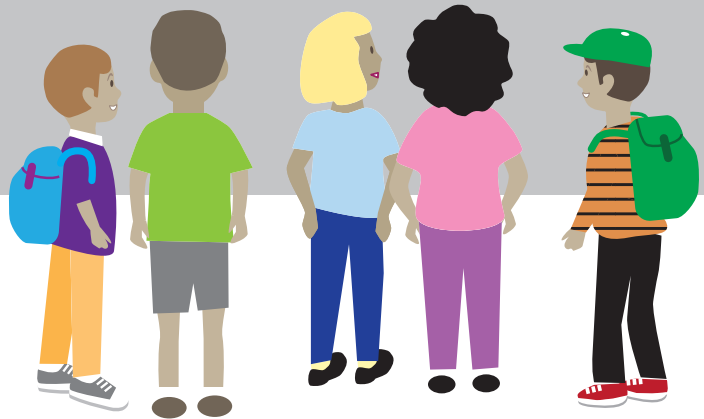
METRO BUS STATION



Park and Ride!



**Do your
share
to
foster
clean
air!**



Can you tell other people that clean air is important?
Can you tell other people why they shouldn't let
their cars idle?



Here's how you can help Casey

The message he has
It's clear and it's plain.
It's important to you,
So we'll explain it again:

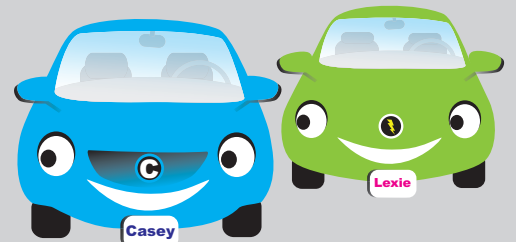
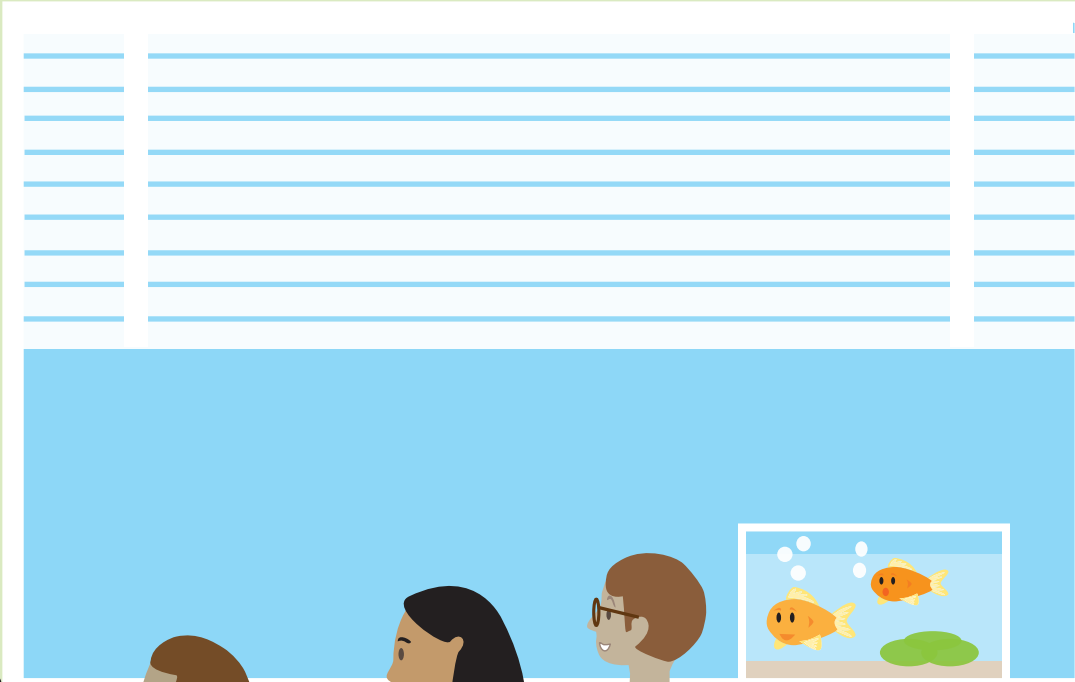
To keep the air clean,
and to help people breathe easy

- Don't let your car idle longer than the law allows.
- Keep your car in good repair.
- Combine trips.
- Carpool whenever you can.
- Walk or bike when it's safe to do so.
- Take a bus or train instead of a car when you can.



Everyone has the right to breathe clean air.
— Casey the Careful Car

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.
— William James



And, when your family is ready to buy its next car, ask the grownups to consider cars that don't pollute the air.



For more information
about clean air, contact the
Connecticut Department of Energy
and Environmental Protection
(www.ct.gov/deep)



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