

All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe from ATV injuries.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that **no one** under 16 years of age ride ATVs or other motorized vehicles. Manufacturers warn that full-sized ATVs are not designed for those under 16 years of age to operate. If you choose to ride, please follow the following safety tips. Children are involved in about one-third of all ATV related deaths and injuries. Most of these deaths and injuries occur when a child is driving or riding on an adult ATV.

Provide constant supervision when a child is operating an ATV

- All operators under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*



Always wear protective gear when riding ATVs

- Many ATV injuries are head injuries. Wearing a helmet may reduce the severity of these injuries. Always wear a DOT compliant helmet.
- Wear over-the-ankle boots, goggles, gloves, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt to protect against cuts, abrasions, and other injuries from rocks, trees, and other debris.

Do not drive ATVs with a passenger or ride as a passenger

- Most ATVs are designed to carry only one person. ATVs are designed for interactive riding.
- Interactive riding is critical to maintaining safe control of an ATV especially on varying terrain.
- Passengers can make it difficult for drivers to control the ATV.



Do not drive ATVs on public roads, paved surfaces, or at night

- ATVs are difficult to control on paved roads, because of how they're made.
- Collisions with cars and other vehicles also can be deadly.
- Many fatalities involving ATVs occur on paved roads.
- ATVs shall not be operated from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise without a lighted taillight and headlight.*



Ride an age-appropriate ATV

- Children under 6 should never be on an ATV-either as a driver or passenger.
- By age 6, some children can drive youth ATVs with simple controls at very low speeds. Many young children cannot grasp gear shifting or understand and apply most safety rules.
- By ages 12 to 13, many children can drive youth ATVs at speeds under 25 mph.



Your child should always attend an ATV driver's safety course before handling an ATV. To find classes near you, call the ATV Safety Institute at (800) 877-2887.