All terrain vehicles

All-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, have gained popularity as farm tools and for outdoor recreation. Because ATVs require the driver to make quick decisions while riding, they can be very dangerous for young children to use.

The facts

- According to the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky:
  - Kentucky has the highest number of ATV fatalities in the nation.
  - Of those deaths, more than one-third are children under the age of 16.
  - Close to one-half of all those injured in ATV accidents are younger than 16.
- Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommend children under the age of 16 do not use ATVs.
- Research indicates fatalities and injuries involving ATVs are most frequently due to driver misuse and inappropriate rider behavior.

Safety tips to keep in mind

- ATV drivers should always wear a helmet, eye protection, long pants, long sleeves and boots.
- Before using an ATV, attend a hands-on driver safety course taught by certified instructors.
- Only ride on approved ATV trails. Do not ride on paved surfaces except to cross them.
- Do not carry passengers. This can be distracting, and ATVs are usually only made for one person.

Know the law

Kentucky law states that “a person under the age of 16 years, when operating or riding as a passenger on an all-terrain vehicle, shall wear approved protective headgear, in the manner prescribed by the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet, at all times the vehicle is in motion.”

ATV safety resources

- ATV Safety Institute www.atvsafety.org
- Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky www.biak.us
- CDC (The Center for Disease Control) http://www.cdc.gov/
- 4-H ATV Safety www.atv-youth.org
Guns are dangerous, but children are used to seeing these weapons featured in TV shows, movies and video games. It is important for children to realize guns are not toys. Accidents can lead to serious injury or even death. Therefore, all kids should know what to do if they find a gun, and parents should know and use preventive safety measures.

**Facts about guns and children**

- Guns are the second-leading cause of death among children and teenagers.
- About 1.7 million children and teens live in a home with a loaded, unlocked gun.
- 80 percent of unintentional firearm deaths involving children under the age of 15 occur in a home.

**Top tips to reduce risk of death and injury**

- All firearms should be unloaded, locked and stored away.
- Ammunition should be locked away in a different location.
- Teach children and teenagers:
  - Guns are not toys. Accidents can happen that cause the gun to fire.
  - If they see a gun, stop what they’re doing, leave the area and tell an adult immediately.
  - It is not OK to tell anyone you have a gun or threaten to shoot someone.
  - Before sending your child to a friend’s house to play, ask, “Is there an unlocked gun in your house?”

Infographic is courtesy of The ASK Campaign.

**ASK: Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?**

1 in 3 homes with children in America have guns, many unlocked or loaded.

17,500 children and teens are injured or killed each year due to gun violence.

If the answer is **“NO”**

- That’s one less thing you have to worry about.

If the answer is **“YES”**

- Make sure all guns are stored unloaded and locked, ideally in a gun safe, with ammunition locked separately.

If there are any doubts about the safety of another home, invite the kids to your house instead.

Infographic is courtesy of The ASK Campaign.

For more information, contact Safe Kids at 859-323-1153 or visit www.safekidsfayettecounty.com.

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