

**PLAY IT SAFE, GEORGIA!**

For Parents and Caregivers

# ATV SAFETY

## Georgia Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



### Why We CARE

- 4 CHILDREN EVERY HOUR** are treated for ATV injuries. That's **112,300 injuries associated with ATVs** treated in U.S. hospital Emergency Rooms in 2020.
- 300** children under 16 **died in ATV accidents** (from 2016 through 2018).
- 98%** of **deaths and injuries** among ATV riders **younger than 16** have occurred when they were **on adult-size vehicles**.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



ATV rollover, collision, and ejection accidents can cause crush injuries, brain and spinal injuries, and concussions as well as broken bones, cuts, and bruises.

### How to PLAY IT SAFE

The American Academy of Pediatrics states that **children under 12 should not be allowed to drive or ride on an ATV**. Children 12 to 16 can operate a youth model only. **Only children 16 and up** can ride an adult model. Helmets are essential. **NOTE: No child of any age should be a passenger on an ATV; most are designed for solo riders only.**

| Age       | Drive an ATV?                    | Be a passenger on an ATV? | Needs a helmet? |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Under 6   | <b>NEVER</b>                     | <b>NEVER</b>              | Not applicable  |
| 6 to 11   | <b>NEVER</b>                     | <b>NEVER</b>              | Not applicable  |
| 12 to 15  | YES but <b>youth models only</b> | <b>NEVER</b>              | YES             |
| 16 and up | YES                              | <b>NEVER</b>              | YES             |

### Teach children these rules:

- **Wear a DOT-approved ATV or motorcycle helmet every time you ride.** (Note: A bicycle helmet is *not* enough protection.)
- **Never be a passenger or ride with a passenger.** Most ATVs are made for **one person only**.
- **Do not drive or ride on an ATV without checking with you first.** This rule can prevent spur-of-the-moment mistakes and **lower the influence of peer pressure**.
- **Wear protective clothing and gear.** Face shield or goggles, long sleeves, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves. Consider a chest protector if your child will be riding at higher speeds.
- **Never ride on public roads or at night.**

**GET ATV TRAINING**

Have your child **take a hands-on ATV safety course** before they operate an ATV. Professional instructors are trained to cover things a friend or relative, or even you might miss.

Check [ATVsafety.org](http://ATVsafety.org) or call 800-887-2887 for resources.

Planning to ride together? Consider joining the course as a refresher.



#### CALL 911 FIRST!

If your child is in an accident related to an ATV, call 911—even if they were wearing a helmet or other safety gear and if they seem okay.

#### PLAY IT SAFE

with poison prevention, safe sleep, firearms, teen driving, and more with the **Georgia AAP Toolkit**—[gaaap.org/new-play-it-safe-injury/](http://gaaap.org/new-play-it-safe-injury/).

