



Quad bikes and kids

Quad bikes are popular on farms because they are tough and versatile. However, they are also a leading cause of accidental death and injury in rural Australia. Most injuries or deaths are caused by rider inexperience, lack of helmet or other protective equipment, and dangerous riding.

Contrary to their common name – all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) – quad bikes are not suitable for use in all terrains. Inexperienced quad bike riders assume that the four wheels offer better stability than a two-wheeled motorbike. However, at moderate speeds and on slopes, this isn't the case. Quad bikes are prone to tipping and rolling, and this can occur at low speeds.

Quad bikes look exciting to kids. However kids under 16 years of age shouldn't be allowed to ride an adult sized farm quad bike as they lack the physical ability and mental skills to safely maneuver a quad bike that has multiple speeds and controls.

When your kids are riding quads that are designed specifically for them

- Think seriously about whether they have the appropriate weight, height, strength, skill and judgment to operate a quad bike.
- Caution them about the dangers and do not let them ride until they are trained and supervised. Ideally, get them to do a riding course.
- Make them wear a helmet that meets Australian Standards and goggles (if the helmet doesn't have a visor), boots and protective clothing.
- Don't let them carry passengers – younger kids or their mates.
- Don't let them carry loads or anything that might affect the quad's balance and their ability to handle the quad.
- Place a speed restriction (young boys in particular love to hoon).

- Restrict where they can ride and the type of terrain they can ride over.
- Do not let them go out riding alone.
- Start teaching them good habits now. Bad riding habits are hard to break.
- Teach them to check that there are no other children especially young ones near where they are riding.

Suggestions for children visiting your property

- Do not allow visiting children to ride a quad bike unless they have been trained and are supervised.
- Make sure children know to keep well clear of the quad bike when someone else is riding it.

