



Oklahoma State
Department of Health

Child's Safety

Six to Ten Years

More knowledgeable.

Understands right and wrong, and reasoning.

Stronger, more coordinated.

Needs appropriate boundaries yet allow growing independence.

Vehicle Safety

- Use booster seat until the child is at least 4' 9" tall.
- Never have child in front seat of vehicle with passenger airbag.
- Do not allow child to ride motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles; child lacks perception of speed and distance, and ability to control vehicle.
- Don't drive into flood waters.

Water Safety

- Teach child how to swim.
- Teach and reinforce safety rules such as:
 - Never swim alone or dive into unknown water.
 - Must be supervised by adult when swimming or playing near any body of water.
 - Do not swim or play near wells, rivers, streams, canals, flooded streets, or ditches with rushing water.
 - Do not dive from swimming pool sides unless the water is at least 9 feet deep.
 - When diving from a diving board, the water must be at least 12 feet deep
- Any pool area must have a life preserver and shepherd's hook for emergencies.
- Use life jacket when boating and fishing.
- Don't walk or ice skate on ponds or lakes with ice less than 12 inches thick.

Bicycle Safety

- Bicycle must be correct size and in good repair.
- Understand and use bicycle rules of the road:
 - Ride on sidewalk, bike path, or right side of road with traffic.
 - Use correct hand signals, obey traffic signals
 - Don't ride after dusk.
- Wear approved well-fitting bicycle helmet.
- Walk bike across intersections and railroad crossings.
- Adult should supervise child who is riding.

Safety In and Around the Home

- Check smoke alarm batteries each month.
- Make fire and disaster escape plans.
- Be sure child knows emergency phone numbers and safety rules for home.
- If guns are in home, keep them unloaded, locked, and apart from ammunition.
- Do not allow to operate electric or motorized farm equipment, tools or machinery (saws, drills, cutters).
- Teach reasons for safety behavior.
- Know first aid, CPR, and where to call for help.

Safety Outside the Home

- Must be supervised before and after school in a safe environment.
- Must understand and practice rules for crossing streets, railroad tracks, and taking school bus.
- Playground equipment must be age-appropriate and in good repair. Surfaces made of 12-inch deep rubber, chips, or sand.
- When engaged in sports, need to wear protective gear for the sport (mouth guards, helmets, knee pads, eye protectors, shin guards).
- Foster self-responsibility for safety behaviors.
- Help child to gain confidence in making good choices.

Neighborhood and Community Safety

- Child should be taught rules at home and school on how to be safe around strangers.
 - Never open door.
 - Don't go near or in stranger's vehicle.
 - Run and call for help if any person tries to hurt or put you into vehicle.
- Child should not be left alone without supervision.
- Monitor child's computer activities. Block internet sites that include adult material and that may lead to child abuse or abduction.