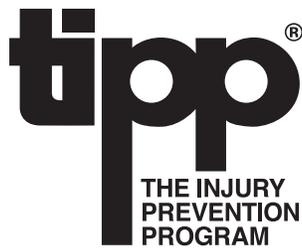


# Choosing the Right Size Bicycle for Your Child



## Choosing the Right Size Bicycle for Your Child

A bicycle of the wrong size may cause your child to lose control and be injured. **Any bike must be the correct size for the child for whom it is bought.** To keep your child safe, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following:

1. Do not push your child to ride a 2-wheeled bike until he or she is ready, at about age 5 or 6. Consider the child's coordination and desire to learn to ride. Stick with coaster brakes until your child is older and more experienced.
2. Take your child with you when you shop for the bike, so that he or she can try it out. The value of a properly fitting bike far outweighs the value of surprising your child with a new bike.
3. Buy a bike that is the right size, not one your child has to "grow into." Oversized bikes are especially dangerous.
4. How to test any style of bike for proper fit
  - a. Sitting on the seat with hands on the handlebar, your child must be able to place the balls of both feet on the ground.
  - b. Straddling the center bar, your child should be able to stand with both feet flat on the ground with about a 1-inch clearance between the crotch and the bar.
  - c. When buying a bike with hand brakes for an older child, make sure that the child can comfortably grasp the brakes and apply sufficient pressure to stop the bike.
5. A helmet should be standard equipment. Whenever buying a bike, be sure you have a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)-approved helmet for your child.

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From Your Doctor

The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on the individual facts and circumstances.

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



**Dear Parent:**

Your child is old enough to start learning how to prevent accidents. The games below are designed to help him or her think about safety. Read the messages with your child and talk about them. Then take this safety sheet home and post it where all can see it.

**It takes time to form a safety habit. Remind each other about these safety messages. Make safety a big part of your lives.**

**Bike Safety**

Always wear a  when you ride your   
**Get the Helmet Habit!**

**Directions:** Color Mary's helmet. Draw a smile on Mary's face because she is being safe.



**Bike Safety**

Always wear a  when you ride your   
**Get the Helmet Habit!**

**Directions:** Find your way through this maze. Connect the helmet with the bicycle.

