

Child safety on rural properties

Toddlers and young children like to wander and explore their world. For those who live on, or visit farms, acreage or rural properties, this can be an added challenge for parents. Extra care is needed to avoid these major child safety risks:

- o Drowning in dams, creeks and waterways
- o Vehicle and machinery runover
- o Motorbikes – 2 and 4 wheeled (ATV's)
- o Horses and other farm animals

Riding of four-wheeled motorbikes is a growing concern - especially for visiting children.

Close and active supervision

This is especially important for children under five years. “Hold hands” with toddlers if out an about on rural properties anywhere near water, vehicles, machinery or animals.

A safe and secure place to play

A securely fenced house yard with child resistant gates and latches, can help prevent toddlers slipping away from supervision. If the house yard is too large to secure, think about creating a smaller, more manageable “safe play area”. The idea is to provide a safe place to play with a barrier between young children and safety hazards – much like a pool fence does.

Family rules - make sure children:

- o Play in the safe play area, such as a securely fenced house yard, unless an adult can actively supervise them on the property
- o Always wear seatbelts and restraints in cars, utes and trucks
- o Do not ride on tractors, ATV's or on the back of utes
- o Always wear helmets riding bikes, motorbikes and horses.

Children will not always understand, remember or follow rules. However, given time, gentle reinforcement and good role models, children will develop safety behaviours to take them into adulthood.

Child safety on farms and rural properties



Young children like to wander and explore their world. For those who live on, or visit rural properties, this can be especially challenging. To help avoid major injuries, children need:

- ***Close and active supervision***
- ***A safe and secure place to play***
- ***Family rules to ensure children:***

- Play in the safe play area (eg. securely fenced house yard) unless an adult can actively supervise them on the property
- Always wear seatbelts and child restraints in cars, utes & trucks
- Do not ride on tractors, ATV's or on the back of utes
- Always wear helmets riding bikes motorbikes and horses



For more information on farm safety ask your local health service or:

The Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety (ACAHS)

Ph. (02) 6752 8210
www.farmsafe.org.au