



# Safety Never Hurts



Beamer the Safety Bug's Safety Never Hurts Bulletin  
for parents and caregivers of young children

SUMMER EDITION

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## ATV Injuries On the Rise!

Ontario legislation for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) indicates that under the Off-Road Vehicle Act (ORV) children **less than 12 years** of age cannot operate an ATV unless they are operating on private property or are monitored closely by an adult.

Injuries related to ATV use in children under 16, have increased by 50 times in recent years and 25% of all ATV related deaths are among children in this same age group. Children under 16 years of age do not have the physical or cognitive ability to safely drive ATVs. On a multi-passenger ATV, young children can have a difficult time holding on to the driver during turns, bumpy roads or over a long period of time.

Once acquiring a driver's license at the age of 16, specialized training classes can help develop the skills to safely operate an ATV. Proper equipment and helmet use can prevent serious or life threatening injuries. Positive role modeling by adults is encouraged and can help reinforce safety and potential dangers of operating ATV's.

Here are a few tips to keep safe while operating an ATV

- Get appropriate training and education. Get trained- take an ATV Rider Training Course
- Always wear protective gear including a helmet.
- Don't operate an ATV under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Be mindful of road condition and trails-drive accordingly.
- Do not ride alone-always have a buddy.
- Ride within your abilities.
- Keep your ATV maintained in proper working condition.

For more information please visit Parachute Canada <http://www.parachutecanada.org/injury-topics/item/all-terrain-vehicle-safety> and <https://www.adventuresmart.ca/land/atv.htm>



This seasonal bulletin is supported by Child Safety Middlesex London.

For more information about child safety, contact Child Safety Middlesex London at 519-663-5317 ext. 3755 or [www.healthunit.com/childsafety](http://www.healthunit.com/childsafety)

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## Needle Safety

### Dangers In and Out of the Car

Most children under 9 years old do not have the ability to make good choices about traffic. While they may know and understand safe behaviours, their brains can't process multiple pieces of information or a complex chain of events. They don't always recognize or react to it appropriately.

#### Safety Tips:

- Walk all around the car and look before getting in
- Know where your kids are before moving the vehicle
- Teach children that parked vehicles might move. Just because they can see the vehicle the driver might not see them
- Always hold a child's hand when leaving the vehicle
- Teach children to never play in or around any vehicle
- Set emergency brake every time you park
- Always lock vehicle
- Store keys out of child's reach

And NEVER leave a child in the car alone. Even for a minute.



*You found a needle at your child's playground. What should you do so that no one gets injured?*

If needles are found on City of London public property, you can call the City of London at 519-661-2489 ext. 4965. This phone line is answered 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

#### Handling and disposal of sharps or broken glass:

- Use caution at all times.
- Never touch the sharp with your bare hands.
- If possible, only use tongs to pick the sharp up.
- If you do not have a specialized sharps disposal container, you will need a non-breakable, puncture-proof container with a lid (e.g. a hard plastic container or tin can).
- Teach children to never touch sharps but to tell an adult when they find one

For more information on handling and disposal of sharps visit

<https://www.healthunit.com/sharps-disposal>



Need car seat help?

Contact [London Car Seat Safety Group](#), go to the [website](#) or call Health Connection at the Middlesex-London Health Unit 519-663-5317 ext. 2280.

Feel free to copy any part of this bulletin. Document disponible en français.

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