

ATVs and Children



Pre-reading

Questions: What do you know about the topic of this reading? What questions do you have?

Definitions: Asphyxia – a condition of extreme decrease in oxygen in the body; similar to suffocation
CPR – Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation – an emergency procedure involving chest compressions to restore oxygenated blood to the brain
Pediatrics – study and care of infants, children, and adolescents

Reading

16 A 10 year-old boy was riding his father's All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and attempted to
37 make a jump on a small hill. The front of the ATV came up and rolled back over the child. The
52 father attempted CPR until emergency personnel arrived and rushed his son to the hospital. The
cause of death was asphyxia.

57 A female, age 14, was riding her brother's adult size ATV on a neighbor's field. The
73 teenager had ridden the ATV only once before. A neighbor later found the overturned ATV. It
89 was lying on the unresponsive girl's back. The cause of death was asphyxia.

102 A male, age 11, was riding on an ATV near his home. After about an hour, his mother
120 could not hear the ATV. She called the police and a search was organized. The boy was found
138 with the ATV lying on top of him. He was taken to the hospital where he died. The cause of death
159 was multiple **traumas**.

162 A 12 year-old boy was found dead under his family's large ATV. The child lost control of
180 the ATV while ascending a small hill, and the ATV landed on top of him. The cause of death was
199 asphyxia.

200 A young male, age 3, was riding on an ATV with his grandfather. His grandfather turned
216 off the ATV to open a gate, leaving the key in the ignition. As he was opening the gate, his
236 grandson turned the key and put the ATV in motion. The grandfather grabbed the ATV and hung
253 on for 60 to 80 feet until the ATV ran over a hill and flipped. It landed on the child. CPR was
275 administered, but emergency medical personnel pronounced the child dead at the scene. The cause
289 of death was blunt trauma to the abdomen and chest.

299 These reports are real. They are from medical examiners throughout the county. In 2004,
313 there were an estimated 767 deaths involving ATVs. In 2005, there were an estimated 136,700
328 ATV emergency room treated injuries. Of those injured 30% were children under 16 years of age.
344 ATVs are not toys. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that no child under age 16
360 ride an ATV of any size.

366 Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – *Consumer Product Safety Review*, Winter 2004

Level 6.0

Understanding

1. Why did these children die? _____

2. How old were the victims? _____

3. Besides the ATV, what other common elements are found in these cases? _____

4. Who has stated a minimum age on ATV use? What is the age? _____

5. What does the word **trauma** mean in this reading? _____

6. What data supports children using ATVs is a concern? _____

7. What difficult lesson did the grandfather learn? _____

Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: Have you driven or ridden on an ATV? If yes, write about it. Were you concerned about your safety? Why or why not?

Option C: What are your thoughts about kids and ATVs? Should they be allowed to drive or ride them?
