



The University of Sydney



Child Safety on Farms

A Practical Guide



© Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
All rights reserved

Title: Child safety on farms – A practical guide

ISBN:

The views expressed and the conclusions reached in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of persons consulted. Farmsafe Australia or the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety shall not be responsible in any way whatsoever to any person who relies in whole or in part, on the contents of this guide.

This guide is copyright. However, Farmsafe Australia encourages wide dissemination of this product providing that the source is clearly acknowledged. For any other enquiries concerning reproduction, contact ACAHS Publications Manager on phone + 61 2 6752 8210.

ACAHS contact details:

Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
University of Sydney
P O Box 256
Moree NSW 2400

Tel: 02 6752 8210
Fax: 02 6752 6639
Email: aghealth@health.usyd.edu.au

Published in August 2009.

CONTENTS

	Page
Child Safety on Farms – A practical guide	
1. Introduction	2
This publication – Its purpose	2
The Facts - Health and safety problems associated with children on farms	2
Legal obligations of the people in agriculture production enterprises	3
2. Finding and fixing safety problems associated with children on farms	4
3. Hazards, risk and risk controls associated with children on farms	7
3.1 Drowning	7
3.2 Farm motorbikes	8
3.3 Farm vehicles	9
3.4 Horses	10
3.5 Tractors and machinery	11
3.6 Other hazards	12
4. What is a Safe Play Area?	13
5. Child development and risk	15
6. Teaching children safely	16
7. References	19
8. Useful contacts	20

1. Introduction

This publication – Its purpose

This publication aims to provide practical guidelines for employers and workers to improve and ensure the safety of children on Australian farms.

The document briefly provides guidelines on the hazards and risks associated with children and practical guidelines on how to implement effective occupational health and safety (OHS) risk control that will not only reduce risk, but will assist farmers to meet OHS regulatory requirements, and improve productivity.

The Facts - Health and safety problems associated with children on farms

The majority of Australian farms are family owned and operated enterprises. Children on farms can have an enriching life, yet can also be exposed to a variety of workplace hazards not present at most homes. Children are seriously injured on Australian farms and rural properties each year.

- There is about one farm- related child death in Australia every 10 days (Pollock et al, 2007).
- There are more than 10 children admitted to hospitals with farm-related injuries each week (Kreisfeld, 2007).
- Many more children with farm related injuries also present at Emergency Departments of country hospitals and to General Practitioners (Franklin & Crosby 2005).

Key problem areas identified through the research are:

- Drowning (0-5 years)
- Injury associated with 2 and 4 wheeled motorcycles (5-15 years)
- Injury associated with other farm vehicles
- Horse-related injury (5-15 years)
- Injury associated with farm machinery

Other hazards/causes of injury on farms include silos, chemicals, noise and firearms. However, injuries from these do not appear prominently in injury statistics.

One prominent study of fatalities on farms found that one third of child fatalities were visitors to the farm. Boys were killed more often than girls (3:1) and three-quarters of children were playing at the time in an area where farm work was being carried out (Franklin et al, 2000).

Younger children are at greater risk, with two thirds of child fatalities on farms being under five years of age. Older children 5-15 years presented to emergency departments with non-fatal injury more often than younger children, perhaps reflecting more leisure activities with horses and motorbikes and their expanding work roles.

Legal obligations of the people in agriculture production enterprises

OHS legislation is similar in all states in that it outlines the responsibilities of key parties involved in reducing risk of injury and illness associated with work.

Responsibilities of *employers* include:

- Consultation with workers to implement OHS program
- Provision of a safe working environment
- Organisation of safe systems of work
- Maintenance of work areas, machinery and equipment in a safe condition
- Ensuring safe use, handling, storage and transport of plant and hazardous substances
- Assessment of health and safety risks to employees and others in the workplace, and institution of effective risk control measures
- Provision of adequate information, induction, instruction, training and supervision to employees
- Provision of adequate facilities for the welfare of workers

Employees also have responsibilities. Workers must take reasonable care of the health and safety of themselves and others, and cooperate with management in (its) efforts to comply with occupational health and safety requirements.

Employers and self-employed persons must ensure the health and safety of people visiting or working at their places of work, who are not their employees, by not exposing them to risk - this includes contractors.

Manufacturers, designers and suppliers of plant and substances for use by people at work must make sure that they are safe and without risks to health when properly used. They must also supply adequate information to ensure safe use.

Each of these OHS obligations must be met in all agricultural industries and on each individual enterprise.

Child protection legislation

Child protection legislation also deals with duty of care towards children. These arise from community expectations about the protection of children from neglect and preventable injury. For more information contact your state work health authority or child protection agency.

2. Finding and fixing safety problems associated with children on farms

The key processes (or steps) that must be set in place to manage OHS risk are:

Step 1: Consult with workers - there must be a way for workers to actively participate in the OHS program of the enterprise. Information should be shared with workers, they should be given the opportunity to express their views and their views should be taken into consideration prior to decisions being made.

How farm owners and managers consult with workers will be different on different farms and may include:

- Regular meetings where safety issues are discussed
- Systems whereby safety representative are nominated to have specific responsibility for liaison between workers and those managing the farming operation

Whatever system is in use, it is essential that there is a clear commitment to safety by the owner and manager, and that this is obvious by the attitude, behaviour and activity of everyone on the farm, on a day-to-day basis.

Step 2: Identify hazards - safety hazards must be identified in a systematic way. This means that farm owners, manager and workers must identify those jobs and situations on the farm that may cause injury or illness not only to people doing the work, but also to bystanders including children.

Identifying hazards should be an ongoing activity and be carried out:

- At least annually
- When systems are changed – new equipment, changed facilities, changed practice

All workers should be actively encouraged to report anything that could be considered hazardous to health and safety – any unsafe condition, or unsafe task needs to be identified and action taken to make it safe.

Step 3: Assess risk - risks associated with safety hazards must be assessed

Risk associated with each hazard must be assessed in terms of the severity of the potential harm that could occur, and the likelihood that such harm could occur – generally the risk is greater if workers, or others including children, are frequently exposed to the hazard.

Step 4: Control risk using the hierarchy of control approach - risks must be controlled to prevent injury. A plan of action must be developed which outlines how the risk of injury or illness from the hazard will be minimised. To decide how the risk will be controlled, consider each of the options (1-5) below for each hazard. A combination of these options should also be considered.

The *hierarchy, or order of effectiveness*, is as follows:

1. Elimination of the hazard

Where possible, the hazard must be eliminated, or removed from the workplace. This is obviously the most effective way to reduce risk. While it is often not possible to eliminate a hazard, OHS regulations require employers to consider this option. If it is not possible, then the next most effective solution should be sought and put in place (see 2 below).

2. Substitution for a hazard of lesser risk

Where it is not possible to eliminate a hazard altogether, consider whether the hazard can be substituted for something that will do the same job, but is less hazardous.

3. Isolation of hazard from worker and other engineering controls

If the hazard cannot be substituted, consider whether it is possible and practicable to improve the design of work and/or isolate the worker from the hazard. This is the method of most of the safety improvements that should be put in place in the workplace to reduce risk of injury as well as to be compliant with OHS regulations.

4. Administrative controls

Administrative controls include safe operating procedures or rules, organising work in such a way that reduces risk, giving safety induction and training to workers, supervising unskilled workers and providing information to workers about the safety risks associated with work on the farm and how these risks can be minimised.

5. Personal protective equipment

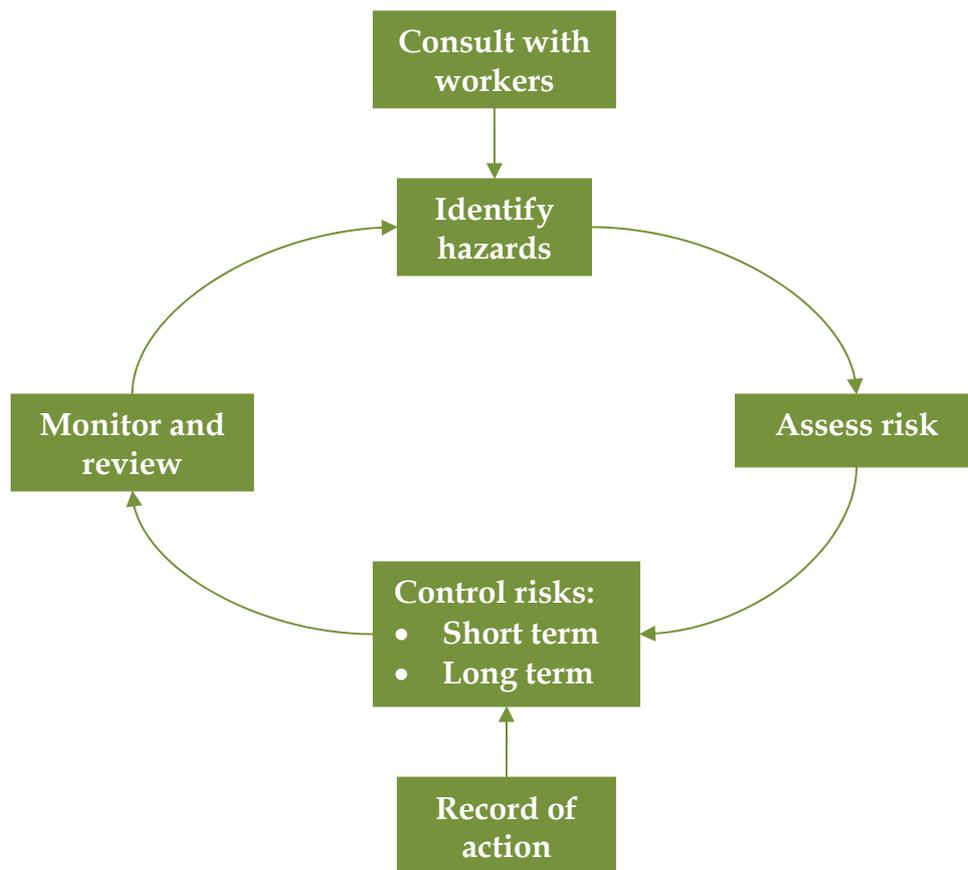
Personal protective equipment must be provided and used where workers cannot be protected from a hazard by a control measure by higher up the order (1-4). This includes providing eye and hearing protection to protect from injury to workers and bystanders in the workplace.

The guidelines provided in this document suggest the use of higher order controls in the first instance (1-3 above), with the lower order, less effective controls that depend on individual behaviour lower in the list (4-5 above). In practice, best practice in OHS risk management requires a mix of controls for the high risk hazards.

Step 5: Keep a written note of your OHS activity – Record Keeping

Records of all activity in your OHS program must be kept.

These are not steps to be taken on a once-off basis. The process would be better illustrated in this way:



These processes should become a key part of the management of the whole business. Successful businesses invest significantly in OHS in terms of time, money and commitment at all levels. These businesses understand that overall performance of the business benefits from good OHS practice.

Such businesses do not accept that the major responsibility for workplace health and safety rests with the workers themselves, rather the opposite – that safety is a key management responsibility, and involving workers is a critical management skill.

3. Hazards, risk and risk control

This section gives practical examples of how the principles outlined in the section above (2. Finding and fixing safety problems associated with children on farms) can be put into practice on the farm.

3.1 Drowning

Farm dams are still the biggest single cause of child injury death on Australian farms, accounting for 36% of all child farm injury deaths. 75% of the children who drowned lived on the farm (Pollock et al, 2007).

Drowning in dams was five times more common than in swimming pools on farms.

Hazard and risk	Risk controls
<p>Children who gain unsupervised access to water are at a high risk of drowning.</p>  	<p><i>Elimination control</i> Fill in unused dips and ditches.</p> <p><i>Engineering controls</i> Create a safe and secure area for children to play on the farm – See information re Safe Play Areas on Pg 13.</p> <p>Securely fence swimming pools, effluent ponds, channels and dams near the house.</p> <p>Fit tanks, wells and troughs near the house with lids/mesh.</p> <p><i>Administrative controls</i> Make sure there is close and active adult supervision at all times.</p> <p>Alert those who look after children to ‘keep watch’ with children who could wander into water.</p> <p>Develop family rules for when outside the Safe Play Area eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid dams until children are older• Hold hands / within easy reach of an adult when in vicinity of a dam. <p>Dress children in brightly coloured clothing.</p> <p>Learn and practice resuscitation and emergency procedures.</p>

3.2 Motorbikes

Quad bikes are the second leading cause of death to children under 15 years behind drowning (Pollock et al, 2007).

Over 32% of all injuries to children 0-19 years requiring hospitalization in Australia are associated with motorbikes (Kreisfeld, 2007)). Two wheel motorbikes and older children are more frequently involved in these injuries.

Quad bikes, although involved in fewer injuries, generally result in more serious injuries such as head injuries and crushing of the trunk and chest.

Hazard and risk	Risk controls
<p data-bbox="188 607 772 712">Children who ride motorbikes on farms are at risk of injury and death if they are thrown from the motorbike.</p>  A photograph showing two children wearing helmets and riding gear on motorbikes. One is on a red and white bike, the other on a yellow and white bike. They are outdoors on a dirt path with trees in the background.	<p data-bbox="810 568 1362 674"><i>Elimination control</i> Children under 16 years should never ride quad bikes.</p> <p data-bbox="810 723 1401 981"><i>Substitution controls</i> Make sure that children only ride motorcycles that are appropriate for their age and size ie. their feet can touch the ground when they are astride a two wheeled bike, they can lift the two wheeled bike up when it is lying on the ground.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1025 1394 1131"><i>Engineering controls</i> Adjust the throttle of a child's motorcycle to limit maximum speed.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1176 1394 1249">Construct controlled riding areas / tracks for children to learn to ride motorcycles.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1294 1356 1435"><i>Administrative controls</i> Make sure that children who ride motorbikes are appropriately trained and supervised.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1480 1273 1554">Children should never be carried as passengers on quad bikes.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1599 1366 1704"><i>Personal protective equipment</i> Children should always wear a helmet and boots when riding a motorcycle.</p>  A photograph showing two children on motorbikes riding on a dirt track. The track is enclosed by a fence. In the background, there are farm buildings and trees under a cloudy sky.

3.3 Farm Vehicles

It is estimated that farm vehicles cause over 13% of all child fatalities on farms in Australia.

Injury as a result of a vehicle accident is the fifth highest cause of hospitalised farm injury in children aged 0-19 years (Kreisfeld, 2007).

Children are killed and injured when riding unrestrained as passengers in vehicles, when riding in the back of farm vehicles, including utes and trailers, and when run over by farm vehicles.

Hazard and risk	Risk controls
<p>Children riding unrestrained in vehicles or in the back of utes and trailers can result in death and serious injury.</p> 	<p><i>Engineering controls</i> Create a safe and secure area for children to play on the farm – See information re Safe Play Areas on Pg 13.</p> <p><i>Administrative controls</i> Make sure there is close and active adult supervision at all times.</p> <p>Have family rules that children always wear seat belts when in cars, utes and trucks.</p> <p>Make sure that when moving off, vehicle operators check for children first.</p> <p>Children should never ride in the back of utes or trailers.</p> <p>Keep vehicle keys out of reach of children when not in use.</p> <p>Develop family rules for when outside the Safe Play Area eg hold hands / within easy reach of an adult when in vicinity of vehicles.</p>
	

3.4 Horses

In the periods 2000-01 and 2004-05, 13.5% of all hospitalised on farm injuries resulted from a horse related injury. Girls aged 10-15 years are particularly at risk.

Hazard and risk	Risk controls
<p>Children who ride horses are at risk of serious injury from falling from the horse.</p> <p>Children may also be injured when tending the horse from the ground e.g. rugging, brushing, or saddling the horse, especially in a confined space such as a stable or day yard.</p> 	<p><i>Substitution controls</i> Ensure that children only ride horses that are suited to their age, size and riding ability.</p> <p><i>Administrative controls</i> Make sure that children are appropriately instructed and supervised when riding horses.</p> <p>Make sure that children are taught the correct way to approach a horse and how to handle horses safely from the ground.</p> <p><i>Personal protective equipment</i> Make sure that children always wear well fitting riding helmets and smooth-soled riding boots when riding horses.</p>
	

3.5 Tractors and machinery

Agricultural machinery, including tractors, ranks in the top 5 causes of hospitalised farm injury for all children aged 0-19 years, and farm fatalities for all children aged 0-15 years being responsible for 3.4% of all injuries and almost 4.5% of deaths.

Hazard and risk	Risk controls
<p>Children in the vicinity of tractors and machinery are at risk of serious injury and death from run over.</p> <p>Children who ride as passengers on tractors are at risk of serious injury and death.</p> 	<p><i>Engineering controls</i> Create a safe and secure area for children to play on the farm away from tractors and machinery – See information re Safe Play Areas on Pg 13.</p> <p><i>Administrative controls</i> Make sure there is close and active adult supervision at all times.</p> <p>Never allow children to ride as passengers on tractors (even when there is an enclosed cabin) and mobile plant.</p> <p>Always check for children before reversing or moving machinery.</p> <p>Develop family rules for when outside the Safe Play Area eg hold hands / within easy reach of an adult when in vicinity of tractors and machinery.</p> <p>Dress children in brightly coloured clothing.</p>
	

3.6 Other hazards

Hazard and risk	Risk controls
<p>Children are at risk of injury and death from other hazards on the farm such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firearms,• Chemicals,• Electricity,• Noise and• Silos. 	<p><i>Engineering control</i></p> <p>Create a safe and secure area for children to play on the farm away from tractors and machinery – See information regarding Safe Play Areas on Pg 13.</p> <p>Make sure that firearms are locked in a gun safe that complies with the legislation in your state** and that keys are stored in a safe place out of the reach of children.</p> <p>Make sure chemicals are stored in a secure area inaccessible to children.</p> <p>Fit all silos with removable lower ladders or ladder guards to stop children climbing on silos.</p> <p>Make sure that all electrical installations are protected by a residual current device.</p> <p><i>Administrative controls</i></p> <p>Make sure there is close and active adult supervision at all times.</p> <p>Reinforce “out of bounds” rules for all children including visitors.</p>
<p>** (the following link provides information regarding requirements in each state – www.ssaa.org.au/licensing-security.html)</p> 	<p><i>Personal protective equipment</i></p> <p>Children should be provided with hearing protection if they need to be in a noisy environment.</p>

4. What is a Safe Play Area?

A safe play area, such as a securely fenced house yard, helps to prevent unsupervised access of children to farm hazards. "Safe Play Areas on Farms: A Resource Package" from the ACAHS will give details on how to construct a safe play area. In summary, a safe play area:

- Defines the boundary between the "home" and the "workplace" where different standards and rules can apply – it recognises that the workplace contains dangers that generally don't exist in the home and the distractions for adults are greater (work related)
- Stops a child from easily crossing that boundary without the knowledge or approval of an adult. It can also help stop farm hazards from getting near the children (eg horses, cattle)
- Is practical and can be relatively low cost
- Makes supervision of children at play more manageable.
- Helps in managing child visitors who may not understand farm hazards
- Is a place where adults and children can relax together – where a short diversion or lapse in supervision is not critical and where work isn't confused with play
- Helps professional farmers/farm managers meet OH&S duty of care obligations.

Principles and Considerations in Fence Design / Selection

There is a range of factors in a farm setting that will be important in finding the most suitable, practical fencing option including, for example the size of the safe play area (fencing large areas is expensive) what is on the outside of the safe play areas (eg cattle paddocks or vehicle driveways) and the type of terrain in which the fence is to be built (eg sloping vs level ground) (Stiller & Baker, 2004).

Safe play area design

Consider the size of the area to be fenced in relation to the needs of the child and the cost. .

- A higher quality fence in terms of "child resistance" for a small area is better than a lower effectiveness fence for a larger area
- A smaller but higher quality fenced area within a house yard may be a good option for young children and/or child visitors. This may also be removed when children get older.

Fence structure

The optimal standard for child-resistant fencing is provided in Australian Standard AS 1926.1 - 2007 (swimming pool fencing). This may not always be possible, but factors to consider are height structure, footholds, materials and gates.

- Ensure the fence is at least 1.2 metres high (pool fence standard)
- Ensure the fence has a maximum clearance of 100mm from the ground.
- Use fencing materials that do not provide children with a hand and foothold to assist climbing (this can include commercially available fencing materials or can be improvised)
 - one farmer used conveyor belting obtained very cheaply from a local mine to form a child resistant fence) .
- Keep diagonal stays on the outside of the fence or preferably use box stays so that a child cannot use them as a foothold
- Ensure the surface under the fence and gates is not subject to erosion/wear to provide possible access points.



Don't assume your child resistant fence is 100% effective 100% of the time – plan for the unexpected. A fenced house yard/safe play area should be supported with active adult supervision and family rules and it is always useful to have resuscitation skills.

Gates and Latching Mechanisms

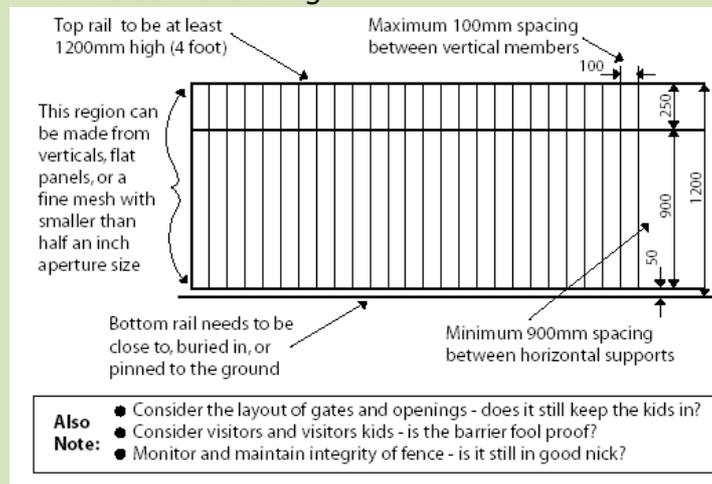
- Gates are often a critical weakness as they can so easily be left open - so minimise the number of gates to keep costs down and reduce risk
- Ensure that the gate is consistent with the fence in height and configuration to maintain child resistant properties and place latches at least 1.5metres from the ground
- A proven automatic latch (such as the Magna latch) with a gate closing mechanism should be used wherever possible (especially on high usage gates)
- Consider using a “please close the gate” sign on all entrances to the safe play area and a “please hold my hand” sign on the inside to remind people to hold young children close when they are taken into the farm workplace
- Consider placing a bell on commonly used entrances to provide an audible signal that the gate is being opened/closed.



Other Factors

- Consider the age, size, agility and nature of the children. Prepare for the unexpected – don't assume because a child hasn't wandered before that they won't tomorrow
- Consider special circumstances with visiting children – younger children may follow older children who may not be as reliable as adults in providing care
- Consider the level and intensity of adult supervision for children within the safe play area. Ensure that items in the safe play area cannot be used to assist climbing over the fence

General Advice - Child Resistant Fencing



Safe and interesting

Finally, a child is less likely to seek further adventure in unsafe areas, if he/she is stimulated with interesting activities in the play area. Safe Play Areas are ideally:

- Located where children can be easily observed (eg. a verandah, kitchen)
- Include safe and interesting play activities such as sand pits, swings etc.



5. Child Development and Risk

Characteristics of growing children that place them at risk of injury

Children grow and progress through stages of physical, mental and emotional development. Children are not only smaller; they see the world differently to adults. Consider the following characteristics of children when assessing the risk of injury on the farm or rural property. It is recommended not to overly rely on children always to behave in ways adults consider safe, even if they have been given rules to follow, or been OK in similar situation.



CHILD SAFETY IS AN ADULT RESPONSIBILITY

1. Toddlers and small children – 0-4 years

Small children and toddlers lack the physical and mental capacities to avoid many farm hazards and may even be attracted to them. They are still developing their balance and are mobile, curious and determined to explore. They have no/poor concept of danger and are easily excited/confused by multiple or sudden changes. Children 3-4 years cannot be relied upon to follow rules and children under this age cannot understand the concepts of rules or safety. They should not be exposed to farm work hazards.

2. Young children – 5-9 years

Young children may understand basic rules, but are easily distracted by play and may forget them or not apply them across all situations. They seek greater independence to play and explore the world. They can accept small responsibilities on the farm (eg collect the eggs, feed small animals, hand tools, water plants), but not necessarily complete all parts of a job that involves several steps. They lack hand-eye coordination and have difficulty being able to adapt/react if circumstances suddenly change. They are not ready to play unsupervised on the farm or engage in long or complex farm tasks.

3. Older children and young teenagers – 10-14 years

Older children may have better coordination, but can have lapses of awkwardness. They want to prove themselves as independent and capable and may try to impress parents or peers or try out new skills without adult supervision. They may be able to work with some equipment under close supervision (eg lawnmower, some power tools). However, they lack the coordination and judgement skills required to safely operate large vehicles and machinery, especially if something out of the ordinary were to happen. They also lack a sense of caution and have unfounded confidence in their own ability – so that they may begin to engage in risk taking behaviour.

6. Teaching Children Safety

The following suggestions illustrate ways to foster safe learning about farm life. These are not specific recommendations, but examples which might be applied to the farm environment generally. They are an attempt to integrate understanding of child development and OHS management.

Toddlers – Preschool Age

Generally:

Curiosity mobility and poor concept of danger/rules mean safe play areas and close active supervision are essential. This means being within sight or sound of an adult in a safe play area and holding hands with or being held by an adult in the vicinity of farm hazards (eg reversing vehicle).

Toddlers

Learning experiences need to be provided within sight or sound of an adult in a safe area. If out of the safe area and in the vicinity of farm hazards (eg reversing vehicle), need to hold hands or be held close by an adult.

Preschool age

Encourage / reinforce basic recognition of

- Safe play areas vs. work areas and farm hazards
- Feelings when safe vs. unsafe/unsure

Introduce simple rules but do not rely on adherence to these. For example:

- Play in designated / fenced safe play areas only - keep away from work areas
- Always stay within arm's reach of an adult when out and about o the farm
- Ask before eating / drinking anything
- Call for help when feeling unsure

Encourage supervised participation in simple farm tasks that do not require great coordination – collect eggs, feed pets, water garden.

Early – middle primary age

Generally:

- Encourage and reinforce basic recognition of safe play areas/work area and hazards
- Discuss safe behaviour with children, possible injuries and consequences of unsafe behaviour
- Set and consistently reinforce safety rules but do not expect/rely on complete understanding or compliance.
- Provide continuing supervision of children learning to swim and ride bikes and horses, past the initial learning phase.

For early school age

- Play in safe areas only and keep away from water bodies/work area/livestock unless actively supervised by an adult
- Stay close to an adult when out and about on the farm
- Ask before eating/drinking anything
- Call for help if feeling unsafe/unsure
- Adults to provide active supervision and ensure children wear PPE (hats, sunscreen, helmets)

For middle primary age

- Play in designated safe areas and keep away from water bodies/work areas/livestock unless actively supervised by an adult
- Always wear hat, sunscreen outside
- Always wear helmets riding horses and small capacity two wheeled motorbikes
- Never ride as a passenger on machinery, ute trays or on quad bikes
- Basic “no fooling around” rules eg with bikes, horses and when friends visit (discuss why)
- Encourage participation in ‘farm safety walks’ with an adult. Discuss reasons for rules, to increase understanding, ownership and responsibility for improving unsafe behaviour/situations
- Assign simple tasks – collect eggs, feed pets/pony, water and weed garden. Use of hand tools
- Teach animal behaviour and plant growth basics – through garden care, feed pets/pony/poultry, collect eggs, simple mustering of quiet stock under active supervision
- Teach basic first-aid skills – how/who to get help from in an emergency
- Do not give responsibilities requiring complex judgements, allow lone access to work areas or set any form of intense, physical activity.

Upper primary – school leaving age

Generally:

- Judgement/concentration skills, size and age need to be considered to determine maturity for tasks
- Set and regularly reinforce clear and consistent rules, especially for activities with serious consequences
- Encourage participation in ‘farm safety walks’ with adults. Discuss specific hazards, consequences and reasons for rules. Allow input to increase understanding, ownership and responsibility for improving unsafe behaviour/situations. Use positive reinforcement to build esteem and value the child’s opinion
- Discuss ways to deal with situations where the child may feel pressured/motivated (by family or friends) to engage in risky behaviour
- MODEL and INTEGRATE safety. Lead by example and incorporate safe practice when teaching routine farm production processes.

For upper primary age

- Play in designated safe areas
- Always ask an adult before going outside the safe play area
- Keep away from water bodies/work areas/livestock and identified farm hazards unless actively supervised by an adult
- Always wear a hat and sunscreen outside
- Always wear helmets riding push bikes, horse and two wheeled motorbikes (and under adult supervision)
- Never ride as a passenger on machinery, ute trays or on quad bikes
- “No fooling around” rules eg. With bikes, horses and when friends visit (discuss why)
- Gradual increase in ability to perform far tasks – but still requires close supervision due to risk taking, clumsiness and ease of distraction
- Can perform some tasks completely with adequate training and supervision (eg ride motorbikes, horse, mow lawn, small power tools, handling/assisting with animals,

vegetable garden responsibility)

- Teach basic first aid skills – how to respond to specific situations – how/who to get help from in an emergency

For lower – middle secondary age

- Gradually increase farm tasks as competency is demonstrated
- Can learn/assist with basic and routine workshop machinery maintenance and livestock handling with active adult supervision and training
- Teach to follow standard safety and hygiene instructions when using tools, equipment or non mobile agricultural machinery, under supervision and in accordance with OHS requirements
- Extend first aid capabilities to include CPR and specific injury responses
- Encourage practice of skills in identifying potential problems and risk associated with an activity/situation and problem solving – DO NOT RELY on these to protect the child (inconsistent application of learning)

(Fragar et al, 2003, Farmsafe Australia, 2003, curriculum Corporation Statements for Australian Schools, 1994)



7. References

Curriculum Corporation Statements for Australian Schools: Health and Physical education. Melbourne. 1994.

Farmsafe Australia. *Factsheet: Child development and risk*. Farmsafe Australia, Moree.

Fragar L, Gibson C, Henderson A, Franklin R. 2003 *Farmsafe farms for Kids: Evidence based solutions for child safety on Australian farms* Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, Moree.

Franklin R & Crosby J. 2002. NSW Public Health Bulletin Vol 13(5), 99-102.

Franklin R, Mitchell R, Driscoll T & Fragar L. 2000. *Farm-related Fatalities in Australia, 1989 - 1992* Australian Centre for Agricultural Health & Safety, National Occupational Health & Safety Commission, & Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, Moree.

Kreisfeld R. 2007 *Hospitalised farm injury among children and young people 2000-01 to 2004-05*. AIHW NISU Proceedings of the Farmsafe Health and Safety Conference Adelaide Sept 2007.

Pollock K, Fragar L, Morton C. 2007 *Traumatic Deaths in Australian agriculture – The facts* Rural Industries research and Development Corporation and Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, Moree.

Stiller L & Baker W. 2004 *Fencing for children on farms: Effective safe play area fencing options for rural properties*. Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, Moree.

8. Further information and useful contacts

State / Territory Health and Safety Authorities

New South Wales

WorkCover NSW

Ph: 13 10 50

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Australian Capital Territory

ACT WorkCover

Ph: (02) 6205 0200

www.ors.act.gov.au/workcover/index.html

Victoria

Victorian WorkCover Authority

Ph: 1800 136 089

www.workcover.vic.gov.au

Tasmania

WorkCover Tasmania

Ph: 1300 366 322

www.workcover.tas.gov.au

South Australia

WorkCover Corporation

Ph: 13 18 55

www.workcover.com

Western Australia

WorkSafe – Consumer and Employment Protection

Ph: (08) 9327 8800

www.commerce.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/

Northern Territory

Northern Territory WorkSafe

Ph: 1800 019 115

www.worksafe.nt.gov.au

Queensland

Department of Industrial Relations – Workplace Health and Safety

Ph: 1300 369 915

www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace

National Contacts:

Safe Work Australia

Ph: (02) 6121 5317

www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

Farmsafe Australia

Ph: 02 6752 8218

www.farmsafe.org.au

Standards Australia

Ph: 1300 65 46 46

www.standards.org.au

Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

Ph: 02 6752 8210

www.aghealth.org.au

Child Safety on Farms

Resource Evaluation

We are very interested in your feedback regarding this resource so that we can continually improve it. Please complete the questions below and return to:

Fax: 02 6752 6639
Post: Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
PO Box 256
Moree NSW 2400

Have you used this Guide to help you with making your farm safer for children?

Yes No

If you answered yes above, how useful was the information in the Guide?

Very useful Useful Not very useful Not at all useful

What was it about the guide that you liked?

.....
.....

What was it about the guide that you disliked?

.....
.....

What changes have you made, or do you plan to make, as a result of using this guide?

.....
.....

Please complete your details below if you would like to register with Farmsafe Australia to receive further information regarding health and safety issues on the farm.

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Fax:

Email:

What type of enterprise do you have:

<input type="checkbox"/> Beef cattle	<input type="checkbox"/> Grains	<input type="checkbox"/> Rice	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables
<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton	<input type="checkbox"/> Grapes	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheep and wool	Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy cattle	<input type="checkbox"/> Pigs	<input type="checkbox"/> Sugar cane
<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Poultry		



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY