

HOW TO PICK THE PERFECT ATV FOR YOUR KIDS

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All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) offer fun and adventure for people of all ages, making them a great choice for family bonding and exploring the outdoors. Choosing the perfect ATV for your kids ensures they can enjoy the experience safely and comfortably. Here's a comprehensive guide to help you make the best choice:

1. Ensure Your Child Is Physically Ready to Ride

Before buying an ATV, confirm that your child can perform the following tasks:

- **Operate the brake:** They should be able to rotate their foot on the footrest and easily reach the brake. Also make sure they can fully close the hand brake and engage the parking brake on the hand brake
- **Sit comfortably:** Check that the seat height and the distance from the foot pegs to the brake allow for a stable, relaxed posture. Also make sure they can stand and reach the handle bars without discomfort
- **Control the handlebars:** Ensure they can turn the handlebars while maintaining a firm, steady grip.
- **Use the throttle:** Your child should be able to operate the throttle comfortably without strain.

2. Choose the Right ATV Based on Age and Engine Size

Ages 6–11

For younger children, opt for ATVs with smaller engines. These models are designed for beginners and include safety features like:

- **Automatic transmissions** to eliminate manual gear shifting.
- **Speed limiters** to cap maximum speeds, allowing young riders to focus on mastering control skills. Tao Motor offers a remote shutoff key fob for the parents, which allows parents to take charge and turn off the power whenever your kids are endangered.

Example model: [Mudhawk 6](#)



Ages 12–15

Pre-teens and young teens can handle ATVs with slightly larger engines, offering more power and an exciting ride. Look for:

- **Adjustable throttle limiters** to match your child's growing skills.
- Advanced braking systems and manual transmission options to introduce more complex riding techniques with remote shutoff key fob.

Example model: [Cheetah](#)



Ages 16+

Teenagers with more experience can handle ATVs closer to adult models. These vehicles provide:

- Increased speed and power for a thrilling ride.
- Ergonomic controls and safety features for better handling.

Ensure they've demonstrated responsible riding behavior before upgrading to these models.

Example model: [G200](#)



3. Invest in Essential Safety Gear

Proper safety gear is non-negotiable when it comes to protecting your child. Equip them with the following:

- **Helmet:** Ensure a snug fit to provide full protection. Helmets may feel heavy at first, so take time to find the right one. A good rule of thumb is that it puts pressure on your cheeks, but you can still chew gum without biting your cheek
- **Boots and Shin Guards:** Opt for boots slightly larger than your child's current shoe size to allow for growth. Use thicker socks to ensure a snug and secure fit. Choose boots with built-in ankle and shin protection to safeguard against impacts and abrasions while riding.
- **Roost Guard:** It acts as a shield, deflecting debris and rocks kicked up by the tires of riders ahead. When choosing a roost guard, prioritize one with a snug, comfortable fit and durable materials to provide maximum protection on every ride.
- **Goggles:** Protect your child's eyes from dust and debris; ensure a comfortable fit. Check for fit both to your child's face as well as with the helmet. If it doesn't fit both, it won't seal properly. Also check the child's field of vision. Well fitting goggles and helmets will not obstruct anything in the wearer's field of vision.
- **Gloves:** Enhance grip, protect hands from abrasions, and add comfort in cold weather. Fitful gloves should have sturdy knuckle armor and reinforced padding on the outer palm. Make sure the kid can still move their hands well enough to operate the controls while wearing the gloves
- **Riding Jersey and Pants:** Jerseys guard against debris, while thicker pants protect against engine heat and abrasions. Riding jerseys and pants should offer good air flow and should have internal pockets that can take armor pads.



4. Safety Tips for ATV Riding

To ensure a safe and enjoyable ride, follow these essential safety tips:

1. **Take a Safety Course:** Enroll your child in an authorized ATV safety training course to teach them essential riding skills.
2. **Always Supervise:** Minors should be supervised by a trained and experienced adult who stays behind them while riding.
3. **Wear Proper Safety Gear:** Ensure your child is fully equipped with essential safety gear, including a properly fitting helmet, boots, gloves, goggles, and full-length protective clothing. The gear should fit snugly without restricting movement—refer to helmet and goggle fitting tips for guidance. Always follow the ATGATT rule: *All the Gear, All the Time!*
4. **Use Reflective Gear and Lighting:** Increase visibility by adding reflectors, lights, flags, and reflective clothing to both the rider and the ATV.
5. **Stick to Age-Appropriate ATVs:** Ensure your child rides an ATV designed for their age and size. Adult-sized ATVs are unsafe for kids.
6. **Avoid Three-Wheeled ATVs:** These models are less stable and not recommended for children. Most of these have been outlawed in the United States. Reverse trikes exist, but are made for on-road use only.
7. **Stay Off Paved Roads:** ATVs are built for off-road use. Riding on roads increases the risk of accidents with other vehicles.
8. **Ride on Safe Terrain:** ATVs are designed to go over rough terrain including forests, hills, and water crossings. Always ride on designated trails and take the appropriate safety precautions including: walking the trail before you ride it, do not cross bodies of water that are deeper than your axle, stay off

of loose rocks and shale, and try not to drive across the side of a hill (side hilling). Traversing rough terrain can be challenging and dangerous. If you or your child feel uncomfortable with an obstacle, go around or back up and find another way. In low visibility situations like dense forest or fog, never overdrive your visibility, reduce your speed, and increase your following distance.

9. **Follow Designated Trails:** Ride only on marked paths and at a controlled, safe speed. Remember to “Tread Lightly” , take only pictures and leave only memories.
10. **Ride in Daylight:** Avoid nighttime riding to ensure maximum visibility. Always check weather conditions and carry a full tank of gas. Why is your kid up so late that they need to ride at night anyway? Let the poor child sleep!
11. **Load and Unload Safely:** Keep children clear of ATVs during loading or unloading to prevent accidents.
12. **No Passengers:** Children should never carry passengers while riding. Youth ATV’s are not designed to carry more than one rider. The seat might look big enough, but the suspension is not set up to handle that extra weight.
13. **Prepare for Emergencies:** Have a first-aid kit, an emergency plan, and basic first-aid knowledge to address minor injuries if needed. It is also good to know a couple of popular kids’ songs to have them sing with you if they get hurt. It keeps them from screaming so much and allows you time to think about how to help them. Make sure that if you bring medicine in your first aid kit, that the medicine is in children’s doses. For instance, an adult dose of benadryl can really hurt a 6yr old, and it will make a teen so groggy that they will be completely useless on the trail.

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