**N E W S R E L E A S E**

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**Think Twice Before Allowing Children on ATVs**

(CITY, STATE) As schools let out for the summer, many kids head outdoors. Some will head to the sports fields, some will head to the pool, some will curl up with books, and, despite warnings from safety advocates, some will climb onto and operate all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The warm months are the peak season for riding ATVs, making them prime months for ATV-related injuries and deaths as well. This week, INSERT ORG is joining other advocates across the country to promote ATV safety to keep more children in the great outdoors and out of the emergency department.

ATVs might seem like an acceptable choice for childhood fun, but young minds and bodies are not ready for the demands of safe riding. ATVs are heavy, complex machines that require advanced judgment skills to use safely, like assessing risk, controlling impulses, and handling problems. Children and teens do not have fully-developed brains, so they cannot accurately determine risk or predict consequences like adults can. Because of these factors, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children younger than 16 years do not use ATVs at all.

Despite this recommendation, children are continuing to use ATVs anyway, and unfortunately, they often ride powerful adult-model ATVs, skip safety gear like helmets, and ride ATVs on roads. All of these actions make the risk of serious injury or death even higher.

“QUOTE,” said INSERT NAME, TITLE. “ADDITIONAL QUOTE.”

Although ATV use is not recommended for children younger than 16 years, if you do choose to let your child ride an ATV, follow these tips to lower the chances of serious injury.­­­­­

**Start off right:** Choose a youth model ATV designed for your child’s age (adult models are not safe for children younger than 16 years). Enroll your child in a hands-on training course.

**Safety first:** Only allow one person per ATV (no passengers). Wear recommended safety gear: a helmet certified by the Department of Transportation, ANSI, or the Snell Foundation, boots, gloves, goggles, and long pants and sleeves.

**Off-road only:** Use ATVs only on off-road terrain, never on paved surfaces or public roads of any type.

More prevention tips are available at [www.preventchildinjury.org](http://www.preventchildinjury.org).

Prevent Child Injury is a national group of organizations and individuals, including researchers, health professionals, educators, and child advocates, working together to prevent injuries to children and adolescents in the U.S. Prevent Child Injury promotes coordinated communication to the public about prevention of child injury, which is the leading cause of death of our nation’s youth. To become a member of Prevent Child Injury or for more information and resources on this and other child injury topics, please visit [www.preventchildinjury.org](http://www.preventchildinjury.org).

 [PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION HERE]

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Ideas for quotes: Local stories or data, training and other safety programs, state laws