

## Are scooters good or bad?

*Both. Riding a non-motorized scooter is good exercise and lots of fun for kids. But they can be badly hurt if they don't follow the safety rules. It's important for parents to know these rules and teach their children. We do not recommend children riding motorized scooters at all. Motorized scooters are far more dangerous than the non-motorized versions.*

## Are kids really injured riding scooters?

*Yes, more than 5,000 children in the U.S. are treated in hospital emergency departments yearly due to scooter injuries, and 1,500 children are hospitalized. Those are only the injuries bad enough for someone to go to an emergency room.*

*Many injuries can be avoided if children:*

- Do not ride in traffic.
- Wear protective gear.
- Have close adult supervision.
- Do not use scooters if they are under age 8.

## SAFE-T-SAURUS<sup>SM</sup> – Keeping Kids Safe

*For more than ten years, SAFE-T-SAURUS has been helping Nationwide Children's Hospital keep children and families safe.*

*Educational safety information is provided through brochures, activity books, videos and personal appearances. Programs are available on a wide variety of safety topics.*

*And now you can visit SAFE-T-SAURUS on the Web. Nationwide Children's complete library of SAFE-T-SAURUS topics is available at [www.nationwidechildrens.org](http://www.nationwidechildrens.org). Safety items for your children and home can be purchased through Safe-T's online safety store also found on the Nationwide Children's Web site.*



**Sign Up For Health e-Hints**

Nationwide Children's Hospital's Health e-Hints is a free email-based program designed to provide you with important age-appropriate child health information conveniently delivered right to your desktop.

Sign up today for this free service at [www.nationwidechildrens.org/healthhints](http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/healthhints).



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# Scooter Safety



Parents want the best for their children. They want them to be healthy, happy and to develop normally and safely in all ways... from the first feedings to the first steps, and well beyond.

The questions and answers in this brochure are designed to help you, as a parent, make healthy and safe choices for your children.



### Is there an age when scooters are most dangerous?

*Yes, most injured children are under 15 years of age. Almost 25 percent of those are under 8 years old.*

### What are the most common injuries?

*Broken bones in the arm or hand are most common. Injuries to the head, face, leg and foot are also common.*

### Can kids die from scooter injuries?

*Yes. An estimated 15 children die from scooter-related injuries each year and more than 200,000 (the population of Windsor, Canada!) are treated in hospital emergency rooms. Most deaths are due to head injury after being struck by a car.*

### If my child wants to ride a scooter, how can we prevent injuries?

*Prevent injuries by following the safety steps shown below:*



- Always wear a bike helmet.*
- Always wear elbow and knee pads.*
- Never wear wrist guards on a scooter. They make it hard to hold the handlebars and steer.*
- Never ride in the street or near traffic.*
- Ride on smooth, even surfaces.*
- Only ride during daylight hours.*
- Make sure your child shows good judgment, strength and coordination before they are allowed to ride a scooter.*
- Children under 8 years of age should never ride a scooter unless an adult is closely supervising them.*

### Who can I call if I want more information on scooter safety?

*Call the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital, 614-722-2400. Or visit our web site at [www.nationwidechildrens.org/injuryresearch](http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/injuryresearch)*