



Child Safety on Rural Properties

How Safe is Your Child?

Make your farm or rural property a safer place for children and develop a child friendly environment, through this simple checklist.

Rural Properties can be a wonderful experience and environment for children to grow up in, where independence and responsibility is created and where family relationships are strengthened. However farms and rural properties are both a work and home environment and children are placed at great risk when playing or simply helping out.

Every year, around 20 to 30 children die on Australian farms. Many more are injured seriously enough to be hospitalised. The greatest risk for toddlers (0 to 4) is drowning, most commonly drowning in dams, but other water areas such as rivers, pools, troughs and dips are also drowning hazards. For older children (5 to 14), working farm machinery, farm vehicles, motorcycles and horses are also big risks.

Complete the checklist below to determine how well you are managing these child safety risks on your farm:



A Safe Place to Play

- Is there a **safe play area** (e.g. a fenced house yard) for small children which is securely separated from farm machinery, vehicles, work activities and other hazards?
- Does the **safe play area** have shade and interesting things for children to do?
- Are there '**out-of-bounds**' rules, for children who are not with a supervising adult, which are regularly reinforced?
- Do '**out-of-bounds**' areas include all hazardous places (e.g. water storages, machinery and vehicles, silos, workshops and areas where stock are yarded)?

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water

- Are swimming pools, effluent ponds, channels or dams near the house securely fenced?
- Are tanks, wells and troughs near the house fitted with lids/mesh and are unused dips and ditches filled in?
- Have those who look after children been alerted to 'keep watch' when children are around or could wander off into water?
- Do you know how to resuscitate a drowning child?

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Farm Motorcycles

- Are children properly trained and supervised when learning to ride a two-wheeled motorcycle?
- Do all riders **always** wear a correctly fitted motorcycle **helmet**, long pants and sturdy footwear when riding farm motorbikes?

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does the Farm adopt manufacturer's recommendations and:

- Prevent children under 16 from riding four-wheel motorcycles (ATV's).
- Prevent passengers riding on four-wheel motorcycles (ATV'S)

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Horses

- Are children only allowed to ride horses suited to their age and riding ability?
- Are children appropriately instructed and supervised on your farm when learning to ride horses?
- Do children on the farm **always** wear well fitting riding **helmets** and smooth-soled riding **boots** when riding horses?

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Tractors and Machinery

- Do you prevent children from riding as passengers on tractors and mobile plant?
- Are children encouraged to keep away from tractors and machinery on your farm or rural property?

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

'Tractors, machinery and children do not mix'



Farm Vehicles

- Do children **always** use seatbelts and proper restraints and **never** ride in the back of utilities?
- Are drivers careful when moving vehicles near the house in case children are present?

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

'Watch out – children about'

- Are keys kept out of reach of children when vehicles are not in use?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other Hazards

- Have other hazards (eg. firearms, chemicals, electrical, noise, silos) that children could access on your farm or rural property, been identified and addressed?

yes	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Copies of this checklist can be downloaded from Farmsafe WA website at www.farmsafewa.org The website also contains more information on these risks and their control. Please note that the checklist is not a substitute for a comprehensive on farm 'safety inspection and occupational health and safety management program. For more information on this and other courses see the contact details below.



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