

School-aged children are still confused by directions, especially ones like *left* and *right*. So give visual cues with directions: for example, ask the child to move 'toward Dad' rather than to 'the west door'.



Be aware
All children learn by example so an adult who takes proper safety precautions themselves is the best teacher.

Adolescents (age 12 - 16)

The greatest influence on teens is teen pressure. They don't want to look like failures; they want to impress others and may believe they are immortal. And it's this risky behaviour that can lead to an accident.



Most adolescents work on the farm. The size of adolescents varies greatly. Growth often occurs in spurts and varies between siblings. A task that was

appropriate for one child might be different for a sibling at the same age or size.

Common injuries for children

- Falling from ladders or machinery or into ponds or manure pits
- Being entangled in, hit by or run over by machinery
- Ingesting chemicals
- Being kicked or trampled by animals
- Suffocating in grain
- Hearing loss or problems from being too close to noisy machinery
- Head and spine injuries from ATV's
- Roadway accidents



Safe practices for parents and adults

- Supervise at all times.
- Set and explain safety rules and why they are necessary and important.
- For small children, provide a fenced-in play area away from farm activities, animals and equipment.
- Match a child's age, physical and developmental level to the farm task.
- Ensure a child has proper training and knows correct procedure for doing a task, and explain why it's important to do a job a certain way.
- Make grain bins and work areas off limits to children.
- Lock up chemicals and pesticides, matches and tools.
- Ensure protective gear (earphones, helmets) are always worn.
- Be a role model—adults set good examples by practicing farm safety themselves.

For more information about child safety on a farm via articles, publications, games, puzzles and activities for kids, visit these websites

For parent/adults:

- Canada Safety Council—
www.safety-council.org/info/child/Farm.pdf
- National Ag Safety Database—www.cdc.gov/nasd/menu/topic/child_safety.html (select the Children & Safety on the Farm link)
- North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT)—www.nagcat.org
- Penn State College of Agricultural Science—
www.pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ub030.pdf
- Safe Kids Canada—www.safekidscanada.ca (select Safety Topics, Rural)

For children:

- Farm Safety 4 Just Kids—www.fs4jk.org
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives—
www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/farmsafety/kids/index.html
- Safety Services Manitoba—
www.safetyservicesmanitoba.ca/kids

How to reach us

Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba's main office is located at:

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Brandon MB R7A 7L4
Telephone..... 204-726-6030
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Our office operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We also have a 24-hour seven-days-a-week emergency service available through our toll free number listed above.

Child safety on the farm...what adults should know...



**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
OF WESTERN MANITOBA**
SERVICES À L'ENFANT ET À LA
FAMILLE DE L'OUEST DU MANITOBA

We exist so that children are safe and nurtured in strong, loving families within a community of caring people



Strengthening families and protecting children since 1899

Who we are

Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba (CFS Western) is a private, non-profit, community-based charitable agency, directed by a community-elected and community-represented Board of Directors.

Our goals are to:

Strengthen and support families

Protect children from neglect, abuse and exploitation

Ensure children in our care are parented appropriately

Work in partnership with the community

Be a recognized leader in the advancement of health and well-being of children and families in Westman

We accomplish these goals by offering effective family strengthening programs and preventative resources to Westman communities with services that seek to support families as well as protect children.

CFS Western... investing in children, families, and communities



Our *Child Safety on the Farm* brochure explains how farm families can protect children of all ages to ensure their proper safety around farm materials, animals and equipment.

It also gives details on the developmental reasons why children 16 and under need safe settings and adult supervision at all times whether they live on or are visiting the farm.

Child Safety on the Farm . . . what adults should know

Farming is one of Canada's most dangerous jobs. Studies show that at least 115 people die in farming accidents each year. And that children are among the highest risk groups for both farm deaths and injuries.

Supervision is the best way to prevent accidents. If they are unavailable themselves, adults need to arrange for alternate care to keep children safe on the farm. It may seem like a big hassle but the price is small when compared to tragedy and its aftermath.

Safety rules are important too, even though children under age three may not understand them. Children learn gradually and through repetition. They may most likely forget rules or not realize their importance to safety until they are at least age eight.

Toddlers (under age three)

Toddlers love exploring their world so they need a secure play area. They like noise, movement and brightly coloured objects. They experience life through their senses so play in sand, grain and water.



Be aware
Even a bucket holding very little water can cause drowning.

Small children put everything in their mouth so are at great risk of choking or poisoning. A fine mist or just a few drops of pesticide can kill or cause permanent harm. Even a quick trip to the field can expose a child to harmful poison levels. Adults should change work clothing and wash with soap and water before hugging small children.



Older toddlers love to run and jump. They like to be independent and can be quite persistent. They have short attention spans and always look for something new. Forbidden objects like matches, tools or animal medicines may be especially appealing. They might explore them when an adult is not

Be aware
Small children lack fear, move fast and have poor coordination.

Preschoolers (age three to five)

Preschoolers always look for an adventure. Their coordination has greatly improved and they love to climb and run. They still use their senses to explore, so they like to taste things like grain or animal feed. They enjoy baby animals, but don't know the danger of the baby's protective mother.



Preschoolers are just starting to understand words such as *beside* or *behind*, or phrases such as *too close* or *that's too much*. As a result, they may misunderstand directions.

They can only follow two or three steps at a time or a simple rule if it doesn't require too much self-control. For example, they won't stay near the swings on their own if they see Dad coming with the combine.



Be aware
Small children do not know the relationship between size and distance: they may see a tractor coming but not realize how close it is.

School-aged children (age six to 11)

Children this age may be clumsy, tire quickly and are restless. It's hard for them to sit and wait for an adult to return.



"are you talkin' to me?!"

Six-year-olds can be self-centred and impatient, but at age seven become preoccupied. This makes them seem careless or unaware that someone may be talking to them.

They also can still not generalize from one situation to another. A child told to stay away from the grain wagon may not realize the same warning applies to the truck full of sunflowers.