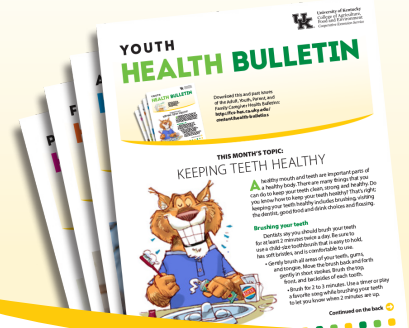


# YOUTH

# HEALTH BULLETIN



**MARCH 2024**

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## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

# PROTECT YOUR BRAIN: WEAR A HELMET!



**H**elmets protect your head, face, and brain from injuries. These are all very important parts of your body! Helmets add an important layer of protection between your head and the ground or other object that could really hurt. Some sports require a helmet, like hockey, football, and baseball. And there are other activities that you should always wear a helmet for, too.

You should always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Bike riding is great exercise and can help you get around your neighborhood. You can go faster and farther on a bicycle than you can on your feet. But, because

**Continued on the next page** ➔



# Because you can travel fast on a bike, a crash can cause more damage. You should always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.

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you can travel fast on a bike, a crash can cause more damage, too! Wearing a helmet approved for bicycling that fits your head is an important way to protect your head and face if you have an accident. When choosing a bicycle helmet, look for a sticker inside that says "CPSC." This means that it is approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Always wear your helmet chin strap buckled tightly under your chin. Make sure your helmet fits your head; that it's not too small and not too big.

You should also wear a helmet when skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, and skateboarding. These activities require lots of balance, and it is normal to fall a lot. When you fall, you want your head protected. Especially with ice skating and skateboarding, falling backward is really common. Falling backward means your head is often the first part of your body to hit the ground. This makes wearing a helmet even more important.



Horseback riding is another activity where wearing a helmet is important. There are helmets made especially for equestrian (horse riding) sports. These helmets are shaped a little differently than other sport helmets. They give protection for the type of falls that usually happen in the sport.

If you ride ATVs, you should wear lots of special safety equipment, made especially for that kind of activity. Specific helmets with face shields, goggles, boots, gloves, and chest protectors are all made for reducing the risk of injuries in case of a crash.

Talk to your parents or other grown-ups for help finding the right kind of helmet to fit your head for the kind of activities you enjoy.

#### REFERENCE:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/bicycling-and-beyond-when-your-kids-should-wear-helmets.aspx>



## ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN

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