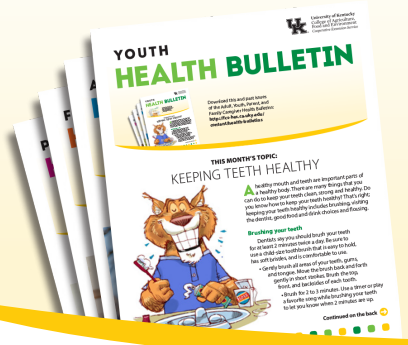
Cooperative Extension Service

YOUTH HEALTH BULLETIN



MARCH 2024

Download this and past issues of the Adult, Youth, Parent, and Family Caregiver Health Bulletins: **http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/health-bulletins**

Caldwell County
Extension Office
1025 US HWY 62 W
Princeton, KY
42445
(270) 365-2787

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

PROTECT YOUR BRAIN: WEAR A HELMET!

Helmets 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

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Lexington, KY 40506

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

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

Continued from the previous page

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

Written by: Katherine Jury, MS
Edited by: Alyssa Simms
Designed by: Rusty Manseau
Cartoon illustrations by: Chris Ware (© University of Kentucky School of Human Environmental Sciences)