

# Keeping kids safe in the yard

Your guide to lawn mower safety



## Preparing to mow the lawn

- Wear appropriate sized clothing and well-fitted, close-toed shoes with non-slip soles.
- Pick up stones, toys and debris from the lawn to prevent injuries from flying objects.
- Consider wearing safety glasses and hearing protection.
- Start and refuel lawn mowers outdoors.
- All operators should be familiar with the contents of the owner's manual and read all labels posted on the mower itself.



## While mowing

- When unclogging the discharge chute, removing the grass catcher, or crossing gravel areas the mower **MUST** be shut off.
- Be aware of your surroundings and look for others before pulling a mower backward or mowing in reverse.

**Fact:** Objects ejected from a lawn mower can travel at speeds of 200 miles per hour.

## When can my child mow the lawn?

- Your child must be at least 12 years of age to use a push mower and at least 16 years of age to use a riding mower.
- They should be mature, able to show good judgement and strong with good coordination.
- Show your child how to use your specific lawn mower and go through the owner's manual together.
- Teach your child how to mow the lawn by showing them your lawn mowing routine and explaining your thought process for each step.
- For a mower with a rotary blade, the child should know how to stop the blade in an emergency.
- Supervise your child mowing the lawn, until you are confident they can safely mow independently.
- Be sure your child knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

Mowing age recommendations	
 <b>Push mower</b> Age <b>12</b> or older	 <b>Riding mower</b> Age <b>16</b> or older

## Contact us

For more information, contact the Injury Prevention Program of Helen DeVos Children's Hospital at Corewell Health Grand Rapids Hospitals:

**616.391.SAFE (7233)** or visit [helendevoschildrens.org/injuryprevention](https://helendevoschildrens.org/injuryprevention)