

Driving a farm tractor

no implement attached

Adult responsibilities

ADULTS NEED TO MAKE SURE:

- All safety features are in place (rollover protection structures, seatbelts, shields, proper lighting and marking)
- Basic service check is completed
- Children do not operate tractors after dark or in bad weather
- Work area has no hazards
- Child and adult can communicate by cell phone, walkie-talkies or other method
- Long hair is tied up



Can your child do this job?

ABILITY

Can the child reach and operate all controls while wearing a seatbelt, or remain completely seated on a lawn tractor?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children who can't reach the controls are more likely to be injured.

Is the child strong enough to fully operate the controls without using both feet or straining?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children who can't fully operate the controls are more likely to be injured.

Does the child have good peripheral vision? For example, while looking straight ahead, can the child see your finger entering his or her field of vision at shoulder level?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children with limited vision may not see people or obstacles in the work area.

Can the child use hands and feet at the same time? For example, can the child run and dribble a basketball?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children who lack coordination may not be able to safely drive a tractor.

Can the child understand and repeat from memory a 10-step process (for small tractors)? A 20-step process (for large tractors)?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children who can't remember the steps to a job are more likely to be injured.

Can the child react quickly?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children need quick reactions to avoid injury.

Can the child recognize a hazard and solve the problem without getting upset?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children must be able to recognize hazards, think about how to respond, and stay calm to prevent injury.

Is your child responsible? Do you trust your child to do what's expected without anyone checking?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Irresponsible behavior can lead to injury.

Does the child usually go with his or her "gut" feeling without thinking too much about what could happen next?

- Yes. **STOP** STOP! Children who act on impulse are more likely to be injured.
 No.

Does the child do things that seem dangerous for the thrill of it?

- Yes. **STOP** STOP! Children who take risks or behave dangerously are more likely to be injured.
 No.

TRAINING

Has the child been trained to operate the tractor (tractor certification or equivalent)?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Training is needed to prevent injury.

Has an adult demonstrated driving a farm tractor on site?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children learn best when shown how to do the job on site.

Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 to 5 times under close supervision?

- Yes.
 No. **!** CAUTION! An adult must watch constantly until the child shows he or she can do the job.

SUPERVISION

Can an adult supervise as recommended?

- Yes.
 No. **STOP** STOP! The right level of supervision is key to preventing injuries.

Supervision

What's the right amount? Here are suggestions—but remember, it depends on the child.

These recommendations depend on the tractor's horsepower and the job to be performed.

Age 14-15: **WATCH** constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

Age 16+: A child must be 16 or older to drive an articulated tractor or drive on a public road. **CHECK** every few minutes. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes.

Main Hazards



Collision with fences and trees can cause injury



Tractor rollover can cause death or disability



Tractor runover can cause death or disability

Remember



Hearing protection



Non-skid shoes