

Preventive tips to keep you healthy... from New London Hospital.

Lawn Mower Safety

Lawn mower-related injuries send about 9,000 children and adolescents to emergency departments across the nation each year. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), one-fourth of those injuries occur in children younger than 5.

The AAP suggests that the minimum age for operation of lawn mowers by children is at least 16 years for ride-on mowers and at least 12 years for walk-behind power mowers and hand mowers. Children who are old enough should be taught how to operate the mower and safety precautions.



Here are more safety recommendations from AAP:

- Try to use a mower with a control that stops the mower from moving forward if the handle is let go.
- Make sure that sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) are worn while mowing.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins.
- Use a collection bag for grass clippings or a plate that covers the opening where cut grass is released.
- Have anyone who uses a mower wear hearing and eye protection.
- Make sure children are indoors or at a safe distance well away from the area you plan to mow.
- Start and refuel mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed.
Mowers should be refueled with the motor turned off and cool.

For more tips to help you stay well, sign up for our e-newsletter, *Discover Health* by sending your email to Naomi.Forrestall@newlondonhospital.org



*Source: American Academy of Pediatrics
Note: This is for information purposes only and not intended for use in place of the advice of a healthcare provider.*