

# Mowing Means Knowing WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE



Every year, thousands of children in the U.S. are treated for lawn mower-related injuries. These injuries, which can impact finger tips, hands, arms, legs and feet, typically occur when the person mowing is distracted – even for a split second.

Take a few moments to talk about lawn mower safety as a family and keep these tips in mind:

- **Before starting the lawn mower, know where all children are.** Talk to them and be sure they stay out of the yard when someone is mowing. Keeping kids in the house is the ideal safety practice.
- If children are playing outside, **designate a supervisor** (not the person mowing) of the kids while the lawn mower is in use.
- **Never allow a child to ride as a passenger** on a riding mower.
- Teach children that **lawn mowers are not toys.**
- Children should be at least **age 12** to operate a walk-behind lawn mower.
- Children should be at least **age 16** to operate a riding lawn mower.

Visit [uwhealthkids.org/mowing](http://uwhealthkids.org/mowing) to learn more about mowing safely.

*See a special message from Liam's mom on the other side of this card.*

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# BE SAFE Mowing

A Message From a Mom



*Liam, age 8, of Cottage Grove, WI.*

## ABOUT MY SON'S INJURY

When my son, Liam, was 6 and out playing one day, he tripped over a tree branch and fell down. Someone was cutting the grass with a riding lawn mower and, in a split second, backed up over Liam's right leg, not knowing he was there. At first, the doctors thought Liam would lose his leg, below the knee. Fortunately, they were able to save his leg, even though he lost most of his heel and calf.

Liam has had 14 operations, and will probably need more. He wears a special shoe and uses a brace to help him walk. It's not easy, but we are lucky it wasn't worse.

Our family would never want this to happen to another child. Please remember the safety tips on the other side of this card and remember that "mowing means knowing" where your kids are.

**Mariah Leffelman, Cottage Grove, WI**

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