

Family Bicycles' Parent's Guide to Buying a Kids Bike

There are many different brands of kid's bikes out there and almost as many places to buy them. It can be hard to narrow down the choices. At Family Bicycles, we pride ourselves in having the widest selection of bikes for kids of any independent bicycle shop in the Kansas City Area.

Kids are not just miniature adults. They have different needs and concerns when finding just the right bike. Kids definitely don't fit a bike the same as an adult. Kids have different depth perception and coordination; therefore it is important that the bike fit properly. Everyone at Family Bicycles is trained to fit your child to the proper size bike.

We understand your desire to buy the biggest bike possible and let your child "grow into" the bike. But a bike that is too big is dangerous and no fun to ride. You wouldn't buy shoes 3 sizes too big, would you?

There is a distinct difference in quality between a bike from Family Bicycles and a bike from a big box store. Family Bicycles chooses bikes made from quality parts from manufacturers who provide a warranty. All bikes must be assembled; at Family Bicycles our professional mechanics do the assembly—not the stock room kid with some extra time.

Purchasing a bike with your child is a fun, happy occasion. It is one of your child's first steps to independence. Just remember the feeling of freedom you had with your first bike. Help your child to choose a quality bicycle that won't fall apart in a few months.

Turn over this card for a Bike Buying Checklist!



www.FamilyBicycles-kc.com

Family Bicycles' Kids Bike Buying Checklist

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1. FIT

Do not buy a bike that is too big for your child! Kids grow, it is what they do. A bike that is too big is dangerous and your child probably just won't ride. When the bike is too big to safely control- crashes happen.

Feet should touch the ground when sitting on the bike; even if the bike has training wheels. Arms should be long enough to reach the handlebar and brakes without stretching.

2. SIMPLICITY

Choose a bike that meets your child's development. Most kids are not ready for hand brakes at 5; but usually by 7. Listen to your child's concerns; they generally will tell you if they think they are ready for gears and handbrakes.

3. SUITABILITY

Purchase a bike suited to the type of riding your child will do. Does your child participate in mini-triathlons or cyclo-cross races? Does your child ride up and down the block for 15 minutes at a time? Does your child go on rides with you and need gears to keep up?

4. HELMET

A properly fit helmet is a must. Again, a helmet that is too big is dangerous. It can fall over your child's eyes at the worst possible time. A higher quality helmet from a bike store will be easier to adjust. Family Bicycle employees are trained in helmet fit and are happy to show you so that you can safely adjust your child's helmet before each ride.



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