

**Table 1.**

	<b>** Age characteristics</b>	<b>Key farm dangers</b>	<b>Appropriate rules</b>	<b>Supervision</b>
<b>Infants</b> (about 3 - 12 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to move away from supervision</li> <li>• Picks up, mouths objects</li> <li>• Explores environment</li> <li>• Attracted by noise/movement</li> <li>• Opens doors, cabinets, drawers</li> <li>• Searches for things</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being taken into dangerous situations</li> <li>• Poisonous substances, treated areas</li> <li>• Suffocation, choking, strangulation</li> <li>• Drowning, pulling things over on self</li> <li>• Finding dangerous substances, items</li> <li>• Electrical appliance cords, heater, fans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot understand rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never leave alone, even for a few minutes in playpen, high chair or when sleeping in crib</li> <li>• Protect stairways and railings; put safety latches on cabinets, drawers; guards on outlets; secure cords</li> <li>• Avoid carrying infant in a sling or back carrier in a vehicle, or when doing chores</li> </ul>
<b>Young Toddlers</b> (about 12 - 24 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to walk; climbs stairs, get out of crib</li> <li>• Uses stair/chair to reach objects</li> <li>• Uses a stick as tool to reach</li> <li>• Twists knobs, works latches</li> <li>• Good at finding hidden objects</li> <li>• Pretends, imitates parents' actions</li> <li>• Waits until adult isn't looking</li> <li>• Likes to "help"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can get away from adults quickly</li> <li>• Able to get poisonous substances</li> <li>• Imitating adult behavior</li> <li>• Choking or strangling on small items such as cords</li> <li>• Drowning, falling into buckets of water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot understand rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closely supervise at all times</li> <li>• Never leave in the house alone, even for a few minutes sleeping in crib</li> <li>• Protect stairways and railings; put safety latches on cabinets, drawers; guards on outlets; secure cords</li> <li>• Avoid carrying toddler in sling or back carrier when doing chores, such as mowing</li> <li>• Don't take toddlers around operating machinery</li> </ul>
<b>Older Toddlers</b> (about 2 - 3 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoys challenges to moving</li> <li>• Runs headlong, has trouble stopping</li> <li>• Doesn't understand personal property and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing with tools, electricity, fire</li> <li>• Poisonous substances and containers</li> <li>• Going near livestock, grain, machinery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce rules and sign but don't rely on children to remember or heed them until after age seven. Good rules to start with:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closely supervise at all times</li> <li>• Never leave alone, even for a few minutes</li> <li>• Protect stairways and railings; put safety latches</li> </ul>

	<p>that some things are not to be touched</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wants to do things by self</li> <li>• May put small things in mouth, ears, nose</li> <li>• Looks for interesting activities</li> <li>• Doesn't understand distance, that when a vehicle gets bigger it's moving closer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choking or strangling on small items such as cords</li> <li>• Getting hit by moving machinery, vehicles</li> <li>• Drowning, falling into buckets of water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Don't open door with a danger sign</li> <li>○ Don't touch anything with a Mr. Ugh sticker</li> <li>○ Don't eat or drink anything unless a familiar adult gives it to you</li> </ul>	<p>on cabinets, drawers; guards on outlets; secure cords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid taking toddler around machinery or when doing any chores, such as mowing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Preschoolers</b> (about 3 - 5 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active climber, runner</li> <li>• Adventurous, likes challenges and things to explore, investigate</li> <li>• Seeks privacy</li> <li>• Interested in seeds, plants, animals</li> <li>• Able to pay attention, observe closely</li> <li>• Vague understanding of descriptive terms (some, under, behind, close, far)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing near animals, grain, machinery</li> <li>• Being an "extra rider":</li> <li>• Exploring farm buildings</li> <li>• Eating poisonous, treated plants/grain</li> <li>• Imitating: doing chores, using toxic substances, feeding animals</li> <li>• Misunderstanding directions</li> <li>• Drowning, playing with fire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot be relied upon to remember rules</li> <li>• Play only in house or outside play area</li> <li>• Never play close to livestock, machinery, roads</li> <li>• Avoid grain, regardless of where it is</li> <li>• Never be an "extra rider" on any vehicle</li> <li>• Obey poison, other danger signs</li> <li>• Don't eat any part of plant without permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervise where you can hear and see them</li> <li>• Avoid taking child around machinery or when doing any chores, such as mowing</li> <li>• Never leave alone with access to livestock, machinery, farm buildings</li> <li>• Keep safety latches on places containing dangerous items (knives, matches)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kindergarteners</b> (about 5 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overconfident, feels able to do anything</li> <li>• Likes to do adult tasks, act like an adult</li> <li>• Wants to know how things are used</li> <li>• Listening skills not well developed</li> <li>• Has difficulty following rules, directions</li> <li>• Relies on perceptions, how things seem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doing chores with or without permission</li> <li>• Doing things their own way, even after told otherwise</li> <li>• Getting too close to machinery, livestock</li> <li>• Finding, using firearms</li> <li>• Exploring farm buildings, ladders, tires</li> <li>• Drowning, playing with fire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot be relied upon to follow rules</li> <li>• Don't go near livestock, machinery, farm buildings, or roads alone</li> <li>• Avoid grain, regardless of where it is</li> <li>• Never be an "extra rider" on any vehicle</li> <li>• Obey poison, other danger signs</li> <li>• Don't eat any part of plant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor from a close distance: check every 10 to 15 minutes</li> <li>• Don't let child operate or play on machinery</li> <li>• Supervise when in farm buildings, near livestock</li> <li>• Don't take child along when using toxic substances, or</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes judgement intuitively</li> </ul>		without permission	areas with fumes
<b>Young Schoolagers</b> (about 6 - 8 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imperfect judge of distance, speed</li> <li>• Not able to anticipate danger</li> <li>• Sill confuses left and right</li> <li>• Thoughtful, inward, preoccupied</li> <li>• Worries frequently, sulks, is pensive</li> <li>• Wants to be independent, strong, brave</li> <li>• Will accept small responsibilities</li> <li>• Often doesn't hear what's said to him/her</li> <li>• Questions authority, refuses cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making poor judgments; is careless</li> <li>• Trying to operate machinery, caring for animals on his/her own</li> <li>• Playing on grain, helping with grain handling</li> <li>• Accepting responsibilities not ready for</li> <li>• Playing in farm buildings</li> <li>• Finding, using firearms</li> <li>• Disobeying or ignoring rules</li> <li>• Drowning, playing with fire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should not be allowed to do chores alone</li> <li>• Never operate any machinery</li> <li>• Don't go near livestock, machinery, or farm buildings alone</li> <li>• Never go close to grain, to help or play</li> <li>• Never be an "extra rider" on any vehicle</li> <li>• Determine "off limit" areas and enforce them</li> <li>• Never touch electrical wires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor from a close distance; check every 10 to 15 minutes</li> <li>• Don't let child operate or play on machinery</li> <li>• Supervise when in farm buildings, near livestock</li> <li>• Don't take child along when using toxic substances, or in areas with fumes</li> <li>• Don't take responsibilities that require judgment, independent access to livestock, grain</li> </ul>

\*\* Note to parents: Ages are approximations only. Children develop at different rates and have different personalities Most children overestimate their abilities and want parent to believe they are more competent and responsible than they really are (and many parents would like to believe their children are right). Until age eight, children have many limitations and cannot be depended upon to follow rules or make good judgments.