



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
INSTITUTE

Safe Operation Practices Children and Lawn Mower Safety

The best place for children is away from an operating mower. Do not let children run or play near mowers. When a lawn mower is being used, it is best for children to be inside and under the watchful care of a responsible adult.

When Using a Lawn Mower:

1. **Read, understand, and follow all instructions** on the lawn mower and in the operating manual before operating the equipment.
2. **Thoroughly familiarize yourself with the controls and the proper use** of the lawn mower.
3. Know how to **stop the unit and disengage the controls** quickly.

NEVER GIVE CHILDREN RIDES

Do not give children rides on a riding mower, even with the cutting blades turned off. If you put a child on a riding mower, even with the blades turned off, they may run into the yard asking for another ride later when the machine is being operated and could be seriously hurt.

DO NOT OPERATE IN REVERSE UNLESS NECESSARY

Be vigilant when putting your mower in reverse or approaching blind corners or obstacles that impede your sight line. Look down and behind you when backing up. Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your view.

For further information, refer to the [Outdoor Power Equipment Institute \(OPEI\) safety page](#).

About OPEI

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) is an international trade association representing more than 100 power equipment, engine and utility vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI is managing partner of GIE+EXPO, the industry's annual international trade show, and the creative force behind the environmental education program, TurfMutt.com. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces. For more information, visit www.OPEI.org