

## Guide to buying a child's bike:

The first step in picking a bike is getting the right size. Where adult bikes are sized by the frame, bikes for children are sized by their wheels: 12", 16", 20" and 24".

\*The bike should fit the child. You are looking for 1-2 inches of crotch clearance over the top tube. (Give at least 2 inches of room if the bike is going to be ridden over rugged terrain)

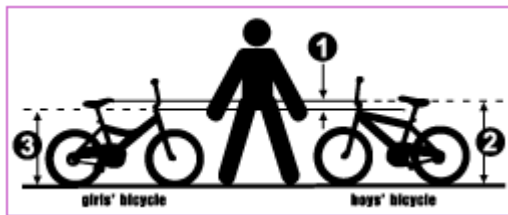
\*The rider should be able to dismount and comfortably straddle the bike flat footedly. (And then with a slight lean of the bike, get their bottom back onto the seat, put their foot on the pedal and, when the skill is there, ride away. )

\*They shouldn't be riding scrunched up with their knees hitting the handlebars and they shouldn't be stretched out and unable to turn the handlebars easily.

The chart below should help you narrow your search, but it is not a substitute for an expert helping you find a bike that is most suitable.

Approximate Age	Child's Inseam	Wheel diameter "bike size"
2-4 years	14-17 inches 35-42 cm	12 inches
4-6 years	16-20 inches 40-50 cm	14 inches
5-8 years	18-22 inches 45-55 cm	16 inches
6-9 years	20-24 inches 50-60 cm	18 inches
7-10 years	22-25 inches 55-63 cm	20 inches
9+ years	24-28 inches 60-72 cm	24 inches

### Fitting the rider to the bicycle



1. at least 1" of clearance
2. minimum leg length dimension
3. highest part of the top tube

*Under the age of 10 a child should only ride on a sidewalk or parkpath, after age 10 they can ride on the road if they are ready and agree to follow the rules of the road for safety! To learn more about bike safety visit [www.carolinasinjuryprevention.com](http://www.carolinasinjuryprevention.com) or [www.safekidscharmec.org](http://www.safekidscharmec.org).*