

Buying a child's bike... Some tips!

- Weight is very important. Can you lift it? More importantly, can your child lift it?
- Keep it simple. Just a single-speed for under 5s and rear gears only for older children.
- Quality pays! More fun, less fixing, better bits, sell it for more when you are done with it.
- Buy from a good local bike shop and look for brands that also make good adult bikes - avoid toy branded bikes.
- If you want to look online, Islabikes and Frog bikes are among the best children's bikes.
- Try before you buy if at all possible.

BRAKE LEVERS:
These need to have a light action and easy reach....

NO REAR SUSPENSION! It is heavy and doesn't really work for little people... They have springy legs!

GEARS need to be easy to use with little hands...

Plenty of growing room.

FRAME SIZE: Make sure that they can ride it comfortably now. Especially for learning, when the saddle at it's lowest they should be able to touch the floor with both feet flat.

Wheel sizes: A very rough guide!

12" Toddlers
16" YR-Y2
20" Y1-Y5
24" Y3-Y6
26" Y5-Adult

How about mudguards? A rack perhaps?

How about mudguards?

GEARS at the back, but not at the front... More gears = extra weight.

ALLOY CHAINSET with one chainring only. Kids find it difficult to use front gears.

ALLOY V-BRAKES... less squeaks.

A RIGID FORK WITH NO SUSPENSION! It is much lighter and like legs, arms are springy already.

If your child is 2-5yrs and can't cycle, a **BALANCE BIKE** is lots better than stabilisers

If buying a **SECOND HAND BIKE**, maybe get a bike shop to service it for you.

HAPPY CYCLING!


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