

whenever possible. School nurses are responsible for the medical and nursing needs of these children while they are in the school setting. School nurses develop, implement, and evaluate individualized health care plans for these children. Not all schools have a school nurse, and unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) are used in some cases. After appropriate training and certification, UAP can provide standardized routine health care to students but must be overseen by a school nurse ([Resha, 2010](#)). Delegation and supervision of UAP requires skillful nursing assessment, effective communication, and professional judgment.

Injury Prevention

Because school-age children have developed more refined muscular coordination and control and can apply their cognitive capacities to their behavior, the number of injuries in middle childhood is diminished compared with the number in early childhood. The most common cause of severe injury and death in children older than 4 years old is motor vehicle crashes—either as a pedestrian or passenger ([National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2013](#)). It is important that nurses continue to emphasize three automobile safety measures that have been found to reduce the severity of injuries: effective car restraint systems, door-lock mechanisms, and appropriate passenger seating locations in the motor vehicle. The rear vehicle seat is the safest place for children younger than 13 years old and booster seats should be used until the child is 57 inches tall ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2015](#)).

School-age children's desire for riding bicycles increases the risk of injury on streets. Other serious injuries include accidents on skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, scooters, and other sports equipment. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are responsible for a large number of childhood injuries, because they are unstable, not easily seen by others, and able to obtain substantial speed. Several national organizations have developed policy and position statements to discourage the use of ATVs in any child younger than 16 years old ([Campbell, Kelliher, Borrup, et al, 2010](#)).

Most injuries occur in or near the home or school. The most effective means of prevention is education of the child and family