

## Vicki's Visit <sup>1</sup>

### Answer Key

#### Instructions

Compare your answer sheet to the answers and ideas listed in this key.

Discuss the answers and any differences of opinions with your friends and the instructor.

Your ideas are important. Therefore, please don't mark additional answers or change your answers. Your answers and the answers of many other people will be studied and used to improve the exercise.

#### Question A

- T        1. Kevin and Lindsey may not realize how many things can be dangerous for Vicki or other children who visit their farm, and may not understand all of the dangers to themselves.
- T        2. The farm has many areas of interest to Vicki. There are many things to look at and play with that she does not have at home.
- T        3. Parents often overestimate their children's ability to recognize and understand the safety hazards in their home and farm surroundings.
- F        4. Walt and Mary love and care about Vicki. They left Vicki in the care of their two children because they didn't fully realize the danger in doing so. They had work to do and had no other child-care arrangements.
- T        5. Children are fascinated with brightly colored tractors and see them as interesting things to climb on and explore. They love to pull levers and knobs and there are many of these on tractors and other farm machinery.

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<sup>1</sup> This answer key should be used with the exercise problem booklet with the same name. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CDC/NIOSH or the US Government.

Question B

- T 6. It is very likely that Vicki could fall. Tractors have large, steep steps for large people. Handholds placed for adults are out of a child's reach. The operator's compartment is high off the ground. A fall can result in a serious injury or death, especially if the child's head strikes metal machinery.
- T 7. Even if the tractor is not running, Vicki could shift it out of gear or release the brake. Even a slight incline can cause a tractor to roll backward or forward. As they looked for Vicki, Lindsey or Kevin could be run over. Vicki could be run over as she climbs down from the tractor.
- T 8. Many things in the shop could harm Vicki. These include electrical wires, chemicals, fuels, large equipment, shop tools, and falling objects or materials.
- T 9. Young children are often attracted to animals, especially young animals like calves. Cows are very protective of their calves. Cows with young calves will often charge and attempt to butt and trample dogs, cats, or small children who come near their calves. This is true even for cows that are normally gentle when around farm adults.
- T 10. A fall from an unguarded grain bin or silo ladder is always very dangerous. If he falls from even a few rungs up the ladder Kevin could be seriously hurt. Falls from greater heights almost always result in very serious injuries, permanent disabilities (paralysis or a brain injury), or death.
- T 11. Young children sometimes wander into woods and cornfields and become lost. In such cases, many children have died from exposure (hypothermia) when the temperature dropped during the night. Wind, rain, and temperatures in the 60 °F range can kill a child within a few hours. Ditches, creeks, wells, cliffs, and highways are also hazards in such situations.

- T 12. Ducks, frogs, and fish in ponds tend to attract young children. Drownings often occur in farm ponds, even among older children and adults who can swim. The ponds are often murky, filled with plant growth, debris, and animal waste. The banks of farm ponds are often steep, slick, and muddy.

### Question C

- T 13. Many places on the farmstead require close adult supervision if children are to be safe. See the newspaper clippings on page 8 of the problem booklet for some examples. Do you know of other similar cases?
- F 14. It is not practical or necessary to prohibit children from being on or visiting a farm. Safe places for children to play can be arranged on a farm. Children can learn much from living on or visiting farms. However, all farms have many dangerous areas where children should not be allowed to go without close adult supervision. Many farm jobs are also too difficult and too dangerous for children.
- T 15. A properly placed fenced-in play area can be very safe because it not only keeps the children in, but also keeps farm machinery and animals out. The play area should be easily visible and quickly accessible from the farmhouse. Children who play in the area should be taught rules about staying in the area and asking for adult permission before going elsewhere on the farm.
- T 16. A walk-through tour of the farm can be very effective in teaching children about hazards and how to avoid them. This does not mean, however, that children are then prepared to play on the farmstead without supervision. Walk-through tours and talks with children about farm safety should be ongoing and frequent as the children grow and learn. If the teaching is done properly, as children mature, they will become more capable of responsible self-supervised farm work and play activities.

- T 17. A lockout mechanism, a ladder guard, or a removable bottom section of the ladder can prevent children or other persons who have no business climbing up a silo or grain bin from doing so.
- T 18. Injuries from falling objects and materials are a major hazard of farm work. Large objects that are leaned upright against a wall should always be anchored to the wall to prevent them from falling. A calcium chloride-filled tractor tire and wheel, like the one that fell near Vicki, can weigh from 900 to 1,200 pounds. If the wheel and tire had fallen on Vicki, or anyone else nearby, it could have crushed them to death.

#### Question D

1. The consequences often are severe, as can be seen from Marilyn Adams' statements and from the newspaper clippings.
2. Farms present many risks to children who are unsupervised. Figure 1 on page 4 of the problem booklet depicts some of these risks. What are some other dangers to children who work or play on farms, especially when they are unsupervised?
3. What are some examples you have observed or heard about where a non-farm child had a close call or an injury while visiting or working on a farm?
4. Supervision, removing as many hazards as possible, and teaching children to recognize hazards and to stay away from hazardous areas, are all ways to reduce the risks of childhood injuries. The persons responsible for preventing farm injuries to children include the children's parents or caretakers, the persons who operate the farm, and any older children or adults who are present or working on the farm.
5. One way that people can understand the injury risks for children on farms is to learn from others. That is why Marilyn Adams wrote her book. It is the reason the newspaper clippings are included in the problem booklet. What lessons have you learned from others in your community about how to prevent injuries to children who live on, work on, or visit farms?