

# Harvesting tobacco

## Adult responsibilities

### ADULTS NEED TO MAKE SURE:

- Re-entry standards are followed
- Tobacco plants are dry
- Child has safe transport to the field
- Work area has no hazards
- Child has no insect allergies
- Child wears long sleeved shirt, long pants, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Child and adult can communicate by cell phone, walkie-talkies or other method
- Break areas are provided away from the work site with bathrooms and water for drinking and washing hands
- Child has at least one ten-minute break every hour
- Child drinks a quart of fluids every hour
- Child changes outer clothing and washes hands after job



## Can your child do this job?

### Main Hazards



Sharp tools can cut skin



Contact with wet tobacco leaves can lead to green tobacco sickness



Repetitive motion can strain muscles and injure back and joints

### ABILITY

**Can the child bend and lift safely?**  
(See "Bending"/"Lifting")

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children must be able to bend and lift correctly to do this job safely.

**If using cutting tools, are they the right size for the child?**

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! The wrong size tools can cause injury.

**Do the tobacco sticks weigh less than 10-15% of the child's body weight?**

- Yes.  
 No. **!** CAUTION! Tobacco sticks should be lifted in smaller numbers or an adult should lift the tobacco sticks.

**Does the child have to carry the tobacco sticks less than 10-15 yards?**

- Yes.  
 No. **!** CAUTION! Tobacco sticks should be carried in smaller numbers or an adult should carry the tobacco sticks.

**Can the child repeat a manual procedure for 50 minutes without becoming exhausted?**

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children working beyond their endurance are more likely to be injured.

**Does the child have good eye-hand coordination? For example, can the child hit a baseball with a bat?**

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! Good eye-hand coordination is needed to prevent injury.

**Is your child responsible?**

**Do you trust your child to do what's expected without anyone checking?**

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! Irresponsible behavior can lead to injury.

**Does the child do things that seem dangerous for the thrill of it?**

- Yes. **STOP** STOP! Children who take risks or behave dangerously are more likely to be injured.  
 No.

### TRAINING

**If using cutting and spearing tools, has the child been trained to use them safely?**

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! Training is needed to prevent injury.

**Has an adult demonstrated harvesting tobacco on site?**

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! Children learn best when shown how to do the job at the work site.

**Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 to 5 times under close supervision?**

- Yes.  
 No. **!** CAUTION! An adult must watch constantly until the child shows he or she can do the job.

### SUPERVISION

**Can an adult supervise as recommended?**

- Yes.  
 No. **STOP** STOP! The right level of supervision is key to preventing injuries.

## Remember



Good handwashing



Bite-proof protective boot with non-skid soles



Leather/moisture-resistant gloves

## Supervision

What's the right amount? Here are suggestions—but remember, it depends on the child.

### Harvesting leaves:

#### Age 12-13:

**WATCH** constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

#### Age 14-15:

When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes, then make sure the child is bending and lifting correctly and not showing signs of fatigue.

### Harvesting whole plants:

#### Age 14-15:

**WATCH** nearly constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

#### Age 16+:

**CHECK** every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes, then make sure the child is using the cutting and spearing tools correctly, bending and lifting correctly and not showing signs of fatigue.