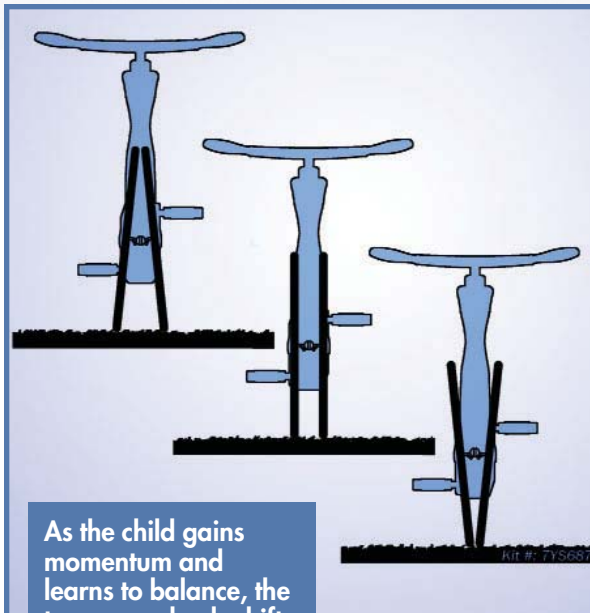


Tricycle or bicycle? Well, it all depends

A new bike for beginning riders may replace the parent who usually runs alongside. An industrial design professor and two students at Purdue University created the bike, called Shift.



The 16-in.-wheel bicycle looks like a tricycle.



As the child gains momentum and learns to balance, the two rear wheels shift inward forming one wheel. Balance gradually shifts from the bicycle/tricycle to the child.

Their design topped 853 entrants from 56 countries to win the \$15,000 first prize in the 9th International Bicycle Design Conference in Taiwan. The 16-in.-wheel bicycle looks like a tricycle, but as the bike gains momentum and the child learns to balance, the two rear wheels shift inward to make one wheel, transferring balance from the bike to the child. ■



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