



£245 CHILDREN'S BIKE

Frog 52

Not all children's bikes are heavy and gimmicky. Journalist **Dave Atkinson** and son **Joel** test an Islabikes alternative from Frog

IF YOU want your offspring to grow up enjoying their riding, and hungry for more, then their first experiences on two wheels need to be positive. The Frog 52 is just the kind of bike to deliver those good vibes: it's well thought out, nicely put together, light and easy to pilot for little riders.

Frog are new to the kid's bike scene. Their range extends from balance bikes all the way up to teenage machines. The 52 is for riders with a 52cm or longer inside leg (all their bikes are named that way) and will fit 5-6 year olds. The alloy frame and fork is well-made and finished, and it gets a 7-speed Shimano transmission with 140mm cranks and a Revoshift twist shifter. Brakes are Tektro linear-pull units with child-friendly, adjustable-reach levers. The 28-spoke, 20-inch wheels are sensibly shod with hybrid Kenda rubber rather than heavy, slow MTB treads.

More prince than frog

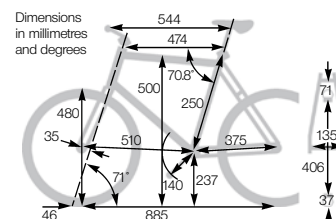
A child's bike review isn't really the place to talk about trail measurements or Q-factor; what's important is

whether children can use the bike as sold, and whether they enjoy being astride it. It's a resounding 'yes' on both fronts here. Both of our testers, Joel (5) and Louie (6), were really happy riding the Frog and the adjustable brake levers, twist gears and short cranks meant they had no trouble keeping the bike under control.

Probably the cranks are better suited, length-wise, towards the taller end of the bike's range but they were fine even for smaller riders.

Just as importantly, both boys had great fun riding the Frog. Its relatively light weight (8.8kg) means it's quick to get up to speed and the gearing range is more or less spot on for young legs. For Joel, the Frog was his first 'real' bike and his riding improved beyond measure; on the Frog he was able to do eight-mile traffic-free rides with confidence, whereas before his range was pretty limited. Louie was a more confident rider, coming from an Islabike, but very much enjoyed the Frog too.

Comparisons with Islabike are inevitable: the Frog is £50 cheaper



GIANT TCR COMPOSITE 0

Price: £245

Weight: 8.8kg

Sizes: one size

Frame and fork: aluminium, with fittings for mudguards and one bottle.

Wheels: 37-406 Kenda hybrid tyres, aluminium rims and QR hubs, 28 spokes

Transmission: plastic pedals, 140mm aluminium chainset with 36T chainring and guard, 116mm square taper bottom bracket, 14-28T 7-speed cassette.

Shimano Revoshift twist shifter. Shimano Tourney RD-TY21 mech. 7-speed, 24-49in

Braking: Tektro V-brakes

Steering and seating: 520x25.4mm flat aluminium handlebar, 80mm aluminium stem, 1 1/8in threadless headset. Frog saddle, 27.2mm aluminium seatpost

Contact: frogbikes.com

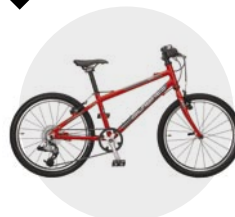


1 Crank length isn't bad at 140mm

2 It's for riders with a 52cm or longer inside leg, hence Frog 52

and it's a bit heavier with slightly lower spec transmission; you pay a bit more and you get a bit more with Islabike's Beinn 20. Both bikes are excellent. The Frog is a super bike for kids to learn their riding, and should be on any keen parent's list.

Rivals



1) Islabike Beinn 20 Large £299.99

Islabikes are still the kids' bikes by which all others are judged: great spec and ride, and they hold their value. islabikes.co.uk



2) Ridgeback RX20 £209.99

New rigid-forked version of the popular 20in children's bike from Ridgeback is a better bet than the heavier and more expensive MX20. ridgeback.co.uk