Gun Safety in the Home
What you need to know about keeping children safe around guns.

The American Academy of Pediatrics states the most reliable way to prevent firearm-related injuries in children, is to not have guns in your home or community. If you choose to own a gun, the AAP has some specific recommendations and safety measures to reduce the destructive effects of guns in the lives of children and teens.

Store guns and ammunition safely
- Make sure guns are stored unloaded in a locked location that your children can’t see or reach.
- Don’t leave guns on a nightstand or other places where a child can get access to it. Leaving guns out may lead to injuries and fatalities.
- All guns should be equipped with child resistant gun locks.
- Your local law enforcement agencies may provide you with free gun locks.
- Store ammunition, lock box keys or combinations in a separate location.

Dispose of guns you don't need safely
- If you decide you no longer need a gun in your home, dispose of it in a safe way. If you need help doing this, contact law enforcement in you city on how to do so properly.

 Talk to your children and caregivers
- Make sure your children understand that guns on TV, video games and in the movies are not real and that in real life children can be hurt badly by guns.
- Teach your children that if they see or find a gun, not to touch it and to tell an adult immediately.
- If a visitor has a gun in a backpack, briefcase, handbag or an unlocked car, provide them with a locked place to hold it while they are in your home.
- Talk with grandparents and the parents of your child’s friends, to find out if they have firearms in their home. If they do, insist that they practice safe storage.