

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.

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.

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 your city on how to do so properly.



**Keep guns
unloaded,
locked away,
and safely
out of reach.**