

STARTING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT GUN SAFETY

WITH KIDS AND FELLOW PARENTS

Gun injuries are now **THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN and TEENS** ages 1-17.

In the U.S., **4.6 MILLION CHILDREN LIVE IN HOMES WITH UNLOCKED AND LOADED GUNS**, according to a National Firearm Survey.

To help keep kids safe, **HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR KIDS AND FELLOW PARENTS** about gun safety.



GUN SAFETY BEST PRACTICES FOR KIDS AND PARENTS AT HOME

- + Store guns in a way that prevents unintended or unauthorized access, like in a safe or lock box.
- + For additional security, store guns unloaded away from ammunition.
- + Make sure that kids know that a gun is not a toy.
- + Always treat a gun like it is loaded.
- + Never put your finger on the trigger until you're ready to shoot.
- + Never point a gun at anything you're not willing to shoot or kill.



TALKING TO OTHER PARENTS ABOUT GUN SAFETY

Most parents don't think twice about asking about allergies or pets when sending their kids to another house for a playdate. Gun storage and safety measures should be part of the conversation as well.

WHEN The best time to talk with other parents about secure gun storage is **before your child visits their home.**

HOW Ask other parents if they have guns in their home and **if they are secured** in a way that prevents unintended access to them.

WHAT IF If the conversation starts to get emotional or political, **find something you can both agree on:** every parent wants to keep their kids safe and healthy. Keep the focus there.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find helpful conversation guides for talking with kids, parents and caregivers about secure gun storage and safety at [AgreeToAgree.org](https://www.agreetoagree.org).



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