

CHILD GUN SAFETY

What Your Kids Should Know About Gun Safety (kidsgrowth.com)

- Even if you don't own a gun, for your children's safety you need to instruct them about the dangers of guns. If they encounter a gun in a friend's home, they won't know how to behave appropriately unless you teach them.
- They need to learn from their parents that guns are not toys and should not be played with — not even touched.
- The National School Safety Center estimates that about 100,000 students carry a handgun to school every day.
- It is estimated that half of all families in this country own at least one gun.
- Most times the gun was purchased for protection and is **kept loaded, ready for use.**

What to Tell Your Child About Guns

- Guns are not toys. They should never be touched—no matter how safe a friend says it is.
- If he or she sees one of their friends with a real gun, assume it is loaded. Leave the place immediately and tell an adult what he or she saw.
- Explain the difference between actors who use guns in movies or on television and the tragedies of real-life gun violence. Use newspaper stories to back up what you say.
- Tell an adult if you find one.

Should You Keep All Guns Out of Your Home?

In deciding whether to keep all guns out of your home, the Children's Defense Fund recommends that you consider the following:

- Every year hundreds of children accidentally shoot themselves or someone else.
- Over 5,000 American children are killed every year with guns.
- By the time a child is 1 year old, he can squeeze your finger with seven pounds of pressure, which is approximately the same amount needed to squeeze the trigger of a gun.
- If you keep a gun in your home, it is 18 times more likely to kill someone living in your home than to kill an intruder.

If You Keep a Gun in Your Home

- When you use the gun (for hunting, for example), don't ever leave it where a young child can have access to it.
- Unload the gun and lock it up.
- Store the gun in a locked cabinet that no child can open.
- Keep all bullets locked in a safe place separate from the gun.

The best solution: If there are children in your house, do not have guns in your house. It is a small price to pay to protect your child — or any child — from an accident.



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CHILD
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