

Talking to your kids about Gun Safety

Take the time to teach your kids gun safety to make your children, your family, and your community safer.

Just because kids aren't asking about gun safety doesn't mean they don't have questions. If you are a parent,



and have guns in the home, it is vital that you have a conversation with your kids about gun safety. ***Even if you don't have guns in the home, it is important that you speak with them about gun safety.*** We all know that kids see guns in the movies and on TV, but they could also see them at friends' houses or in situations where you are not there. If they don't learn gun safety from you, chances are they are going to learn it from someone else. Have this conversation.

Your lessons on gun safety may be all that your child has to rely on.

Make it a meaningful conversation for both young kids and teens:

- Kids need to know that this is a serious topic.
- If you have a partner, talk about it and get on the same page.
- Try to conduct the talk together. It is important they are hearing one message.
- Find a good time and place for discussion, make sure there are no distractions.
- This is a conversation, not a lecture. Allow them to ask questions. Ask them questions. Find out what they know.
- Demystify the situation. Give examples from real life (age appropriate).
- Set an example with your own safe storage of firearms in the home and safe handling.
- Reinforce your conversation regularly.



Young kids- Can start as early as 3 years old and continue that conversation a few times per year. Make sure your kids are mature enough to understand these few fundamental rules.

Teaching points for young children

STOP.

DON'T TOUCH IT. Even if a gun looks like a toy, leave it alone.

LEAVE THE GUN ALONE AND GO AND TELL AN ADULT RIGHT AWAY.



Teenage kids- Many teenagers want to jump right to the shooting stages of gun use. This is why education and responsible guidance is important before they ever encounter a gun. Even if you don't have guns in the home, it is important to talk with your children in case they encounter a gun at a friend's home or somewhere else. Your lessons on safety may be all that your child has to rely on.

Teaching points for teens

Don't touch, pick up, or use a gun without an adult's permission & supervision.

Never point a gun at anyone.

Always treat a gun like it is loaded and able to fire.

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