

Tips for talking to kids about GUN SAFETY



In general

- Talk to them frequently, just as you would about other safety issues. Don't have the conversation only once.
- The most important thing is to make sure they understand that it's dangerous if they find themselves in a situation where there's an unsupervised gun.

Talking to young children

- Keep the language simple. For example: "If you see a gun, don't touch it. Tell an adult right away."
- Tell children not to touch a gun, even if it looks like a toy.
- Assure children they will not get in trouble if they tell an adult they've seen a gun.
- Repeat it on a regular basis.

Talking to older children and teens

- Include it in your general safety conversations about topics like drugs, alcohol and drunk driving.
- Tell them to immediately leave any situation where an unsecured gun is present.
- Tell them not to listen to a friend who says a gun is unloaded or otherwise safe.
- Provide them – or come up with them together – strategies to get out of a situation where a gun is present. For example, they could say: "My mom just texted me that I have to get home right now."
- Tell them it's OK to ask if there are unsecured guns in homes they visit. If they're uncomfortable doing that, offer to do it for them.

