

GUN

SAFETY

Tips from CHOP experts



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CHILDREN ARE SAFEST IN A HOME WITHOUT A GUN.

If you have a gun in your home, keep children safe by following this advice:

- Store all guns unloaded, locked and out of sight.
- Store all bullets separately and keep them locked and out of sight.

There are many options to store your gun safely. Keep keys and combination codes hidden and secure.



Cable lock



Gun safe

TALK ABOUT GUN SAFETY WITH YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- If your child sees a gun, tell them to not touch it, move away from the area and tell a grown-up immediately.
- Ask family members and friends about guns in their homes and how they are stored before your child goes to visit.
Here are some suggestions for getting the conversation started:
 - Normalize the discussion by asking about firearms along with other common safety issues such as pool safety, bike helmets, car seats and food allergies.
 - Say that your pediatrician suggested you ask, or that you saw it on a parenting website.
 - Mention that your child is naturally curious and loves to explore.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Firearms are the leading cause of death for kids ages 1–19 in the U.S.¹
- Playing with a gun is the most common cause of accidental gun deaths among children.²
- Three out of four kids ages 5–14 know where guns are kept in the home.³
- A 3-year-old is strong enough to pull the trigger of a handgun.⁴
- Most cases of childhood suicide involve a family member's unlocked gun.⁵



Scan the QR code for additional educational resources, including a video demonstrating how to use gun locks and lock boxes, or visit violence.chop.edu/gun-safety-resources

References:

¹Goldstick JE, et al. Current Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the United States. *New England Journal of Medicine*, April 2022.

²Fowler KA, et al. Childhood Firearm Injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2017;140(1).

³bradycampaign.org/our-impact/campaigns/keep-kids-and-families-safe

⁴healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx

⁵Youth Suicide: Findings from a pilot for the National Violent Death Reporting System. *Suicide Prevention Resource Center & Harvard Injury Control Center*. 2007.