

# CHILD GUN SAFETY

## What Your Kids Should Know About Gun Safety ([kidsgrowth.com](http://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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