

# Kids and Guns

## Firearm injuries are PREVENTABLE

71,000 children are taken to the emergency departments with **gunshots wounds** each year. Half are discharged with a lasting disability.



Guns are not toys, and can often be mistaken by a young child or toddler.

**About one-third of homes with kids have guns, many left unlocked or loaded.**



Making sure guns are stored safely is especially important when school is out, and children are spending more time at home. This means locked and unloaded, with ammunition stored separately. **Just talking to your child about the dangers of firearms is not enough.**

- 22% of gun owners falsely believe their children have never handled their firearms
- This contradicts what their parents believe
- 73% of children under the age of 10 who live in houses with guns know where the guns are 36% have held them



Safe Storage. All guns in your home should be locked and unloaded, with a ammunition locked separately . Make sure children and teens can't access the keys or combinations to lock boxes or gun safes. And remember not to keep loaded, unlocked guns in the car, either.

In use. When using a gun for hunting or target practice, keep the safety catch in place until you are ready to fire it.

Before setting the gun down, always unload it.

As much as a child may want to take a turn shooting, this is not a good idea. No matter how much instruction you may give about how to safely shoot a gun, children are not capable or responsible enough to handle a potential lethal weapon.