

Gun Safety

Facts About Guns

- ◆ Every 2 hours someone's child is killed with a loaded gun.



- ◆ A gun kept in the home is 43 times more likely to kill someone known to your family than to kill someone in self-defense.

- ◆ In California, if a child gets access to your loaded gun and injures someone, you can be prosecuted, fined and sentenced to jail!

Talk to Your Child

Discuss gun safety anytime your child pretends "gunplay" or asks questions about guns. Here is what you can tell your child to do if he ever sees or finds a gun:

- ★ **Don't touch the gun.** You might get hurt or hurt someone else.
- ★ **Get as far away as possible.** Don't stay and try to talk to anyone. Just say, "I need to leave now" and go.
- ★ **Find a grown-up.** Tell them you just saw a gun, where it was and who had it. You might help save someone's life.
- ★ **Never allow your child to touch a gun unless a parent or responsible adult is present.**
- ★ **Teach your children that what they see on television and in movies is not real.** Guns used on TV are toys. Real guns can cause serious injuries or kill people.



- ★ **Talk to your children about guns and violence.** Tell them that anger and fear can be expressed without striking out at others or using weapons. Support positive ways of resolving conflict, like talking out feelings.

- ★ **If you allow your child to play with toy guns, use them to show safe gun handling.** Never allow the toy guns' color to be modified. Toy guns can be easily confused for real with tragic results.



Gun Safety Tips

It is best to keep all guns out of your home. If you choose to keep a gun, always be a positive gun safety role model for your children by storing and using guns safely:

- ★ **Store the gun unloaded until ready to use.** If you don't know how to tell if a gun is unloaded, leave it alone and get help from someone who knows.
- ★ **Use a trigger lock or gun lock, and store the gun in a locked container.** Store the ammunition in a separate, locked container. Make sure to hide all the keys.
- ★ **Be sure the places you store guns and ammunition are out of reach of children.** Don't store a gun where it is visible, in a nightstand or under a mattress or pillow.
- ★ **Always point a gun in a safe direction.** Never point the muzzle at anyone.
- ★ **Ask if the homes where your child visits or is cared for have guns.** Ask how the guns are stored and be sure your child will be safe there.