

Healthy Families, Safe Communities

Keystone First — Putting safety first

Gun safety — making the conversation a normal part of well visits

The goal of the gun safety counseling conversation is totally focused on child safety and injury prevention.

Talking about guns can be a simple question added to your current list of safety questions, like questions on car seat usage, locking medications and wearing bike helmets. Lok-It-Up, a campaign for the safe storage of firearms, offers good suggestions for questions to start the conversation.

Encourage parents and guardians to ask about firearms in homes where their children play. The ASK (Asking Saves Kids) campaign promotes this idea. For details, visit askingsaveskids.org.



Ask: If you have any firearms at home, are they stored unloaded and locked?

If “no,” recommend safe storage. Suggest that firearms are kept unloaded and locked. Recommend that ammunition be stored separately. Screen for situations that might place family members at high risk of injury despite safe storage (such as an adolescent in the home or family members who are depressed or suicidal), and make appropriate recommendations.

If “yes,” reinforce choice to keep firearm unloaded and locked. Check that ammunition is stored separately. Screen for situations that might place family members at high risk of injury despite safe storage (such as an adolescent in the home or family members who are depressed or suicidal), and make appropriate recommendations.

This is critical: Encourage parents and guardians to find out about firearms in other homes where their children play. The ASK (Asking Saves Kids)* campaign promotes this idea.

Ask: “Before you send your child to someone else’s house to play, do you ask if firearms in that home are stored unloaded and locked?”

If “no,” offer tips on how to ask other families the question: “Are firearms in your home safely stored?” See the tips below.

If “yes,” reinforce the decision to ask other families and friends from homes where their children play about the safety of firearms storage.

Some tips and scripts for parents*

- Ask about firearms before your child goes to play at someone’s home, along with other things you discuss such as seat belt use, allergies and animals.
 - “I don’t mean any disrespect, but knowing how curious my child can be, I feel I have to ask this question...”
 - “I hope you don’t mind my asking if you have a firearm in your home and if it is properly stored...”

For more suggested questions and information, go to www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/injury/lokitup/providers.aspx.

Did you know?

Project Child Safe has partnered with many law enforcement departments in Pennsylvania to provide free gun safety (lock) kits. To find partners in your community, visit www.projectchildsafepa.org/safety/safety-kit/Pennsylvania.

*Source: askingsaveskids.org

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Kids will be kids!

Are your children curious? If they know there is a present in the house for them, will they look for it? And are your children sometimes forgetful? Do you often have to remind them to brush their teeth?

If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions, we have some tips for you about gun safety. Yes — gun safety!

How often have you talked about gun safety with your child? You don't need to own a gun to talk about gun safety.



Did you know?

- A child as young as 3 years old can be strong enough to pull the trigger of a gun.
- Teen suicide is **10 times** more likely to happen if there is a gun in the house?* If your child shows signs of depression and you have a gun in the home, find some place outside of your home to keep the gun.

Talking...

If your child knows there is a gun in the house, he or she may be curious. Your child could also find it by mistake at your house or someone else's house, or even at school. Talking about gun safety only 1 or 2 times with your child may not be enough. It's important to talk about gun safety over and over again. You can't be too safe with your child.

*Statistic taken from WebMD, Gun Safety With Kids in the House, by Suz Redfearn, September 2015.

The information in this notice is available in other languages and formats by calling Member Services at **1-800-521-6860** or **1-800-684-5505** (TTY).

Esta información también se ofrece en otros idiomas y formatos. Llame a Servicios para Miembros al **1-800-521-6860** o al **1-800-684-5505** (TTY).

Muốn đọc thông tin trong thông báo này dưới hình thức và ngôn ngữ khác, xin gọi Ban Dịch Vụ Hội Viên số **1-800-521-6860** hay số dành cho người khiếm thính giác **1-800-684-5505** (TTY).

ព័ត៌មាននៅក្នុងសំបុត្រនេះមានជាភាសាដទៃទៀត ដោយទូរស័ព្ទទៅក្រសួងព័ត៌មានសហគមន៍លេខ **1-800-521-6860** ឬ **1-800-684-5505** (TTY) សំរាប់អ្នកក្លី។

Для получения сведений, содержащихся в данном уведомлении, на других языках звоните в Отдел обслуживания по телефону **1-800-521-6860** или **1-800-684-5505** (TTY).

此通知的资料包括其他语言及格式，如需要提供，请致电 **1-800-521-6860** 或 **1-800-684-5505** (TTY) 联系会员服务处。

Locking...

Parents need to make sure a gun is safe. Safe storage, locking the gun and ammunition, and safe use all work together to make sure anyone who is around the gun is safe.

Here are some tips for gun storage and safety:

- Make sure the gun is in a place your child cannot get to. Just hiding it may not be enough.
- Keep your gun in a locked cabinet, gun vault or locked storage case.
- Use a gun lock in addition to putting it in a locked cabinet, vault or case. Some locks make the gun completely unusable until unlocked. Go to www.projectchildsafe.org/safety/get-a-safety-kit or call your local police station to find out how to get a lock at no cost to you.
- Store the gun's ammunition (bullets) in a different place than the gun. Ammunition also needs to be locked up.
- When taking your gun out, make sure it is not loaded...and then check it again. You can never be too certain.
- Never leave your gun unattended. If you take the gun out, never leave it laying somewhere. Always be with your gun when it is not locked.

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What should you do if you see a gun?



Stop!



Don't touch!



Leave the room
or place where
the gun is!



Tell an adult
about the gun
right away!

Did you know?

- The guns you see on TV or in movies or on video games are not real.
- Some real guns look like toy guns.
- Real guns can hurt or kill people.
- If you touch a gun, you could hurt yourself or someone else by accident.

