

Don't rely on the gun's safety to keep it from firing.

Be aware of your surroundings when handling guns so you don't trip or lose your balance and accidentally point and/or fire the gun at anyone or anything.

### **Rules for Safe Gun Storage**

Keep all guns and ammunition out of the reach of children, untrained adults, and those who would use them improperly.

Always keep your guns locked in a Gun Safe that cannot be easily broken into or taken away. If one is not available, use a Cable Lock or Trigger Lock (one that goes behind the trigger is preferred) and store the guns out of the reach of those who should not have access to them.

Keep the keys to gun safes and gun locks hidden and out of the reach of those who should not have access to them.

Store your guns unloaded and with the safety on.

Keep the guns dry, cleaned, and oiled while in storage.

Store guns and ammunition in a dry cool place and away from heat and fire.



#### **North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission**

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**North Carolina Governor's  
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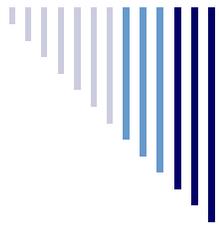
## **How to Talk to Your Kids About Gun Safety**

Presented by:



**[GunSafetyNow.com](http://GunSafetyNow.com)**

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## Talking to Your Children

As many as 10 children are killed each day by guns in the United States. Here are some ways you can provide children the information they need to stay safe.

### Steps:

Ask your children if they have ever seen a gun at a friend's house or at school.

Remind them never to touch any gun or bullets.

Tell them to leave immediately if they ever see a gun in someone else's home.

Stress the fact that guns can kill.

Explain the difference between toy guns and real ones.

Encourage children to tell you if they ever feel unsafe at home or at school.

Talk to them about violence in television, movies and videogames and prompt them to discuss their feelings.

Encourage them to make safe decisions.

Invite them to come to you whenever they have further questions.

### Tips:

Check with other parents to find out if they have a gun in their home before your children visit.

Help choose programs, movies and games that are non-violent.

Be a positive role model at home.

Encourage games and activities that teach good decision-making skills.

Be on the lookout for signs of depression, since suicide is one of the common causes of youth handgun death.

## Warnings:

Consult a professional if you feel your child seems disturbed or exhibits any signs of being suicidal.

## The 12 Golden rules for Safe Gun Handling

*Always treat the gun as loaded.*

*Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.*

*Always keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.*

*Always keep the gun unloaded until you are ready to use it.*

Never point the gun at anything you don't intend to destroy.

Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the gun you are using.

Always use proper Ammunition.

Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before loading and shooting.

If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, hold your shooting position for several seconds; then with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, carefully unload the gun.