

## Safety around Firearms

- More than one-third of all families have a gun. Even if you do not own a firearm, your friends, family, or neighbors might.
- More than 40% of families with guns do not keep their guns locked up.

### Prevention for Kids

- If you see a gun:
  - STOP!
  - Do not touch it.
  - Leave the area and tell an adult.
- If a friend wants to show you a gun, say “No”. Leave the situation and tell your parents what happened.
- If someone tells you they are thinking of bringing a gun to school, church, practice, etc. or threatens you with a gun – tell your teacher, counselor, or coach as soon as possible!
- Guns may seem fun in movies or games, but real guns are not toys and can cause serious, permanent injuries or even death.
- Never play with a gun. Don’t joke about having a gun or shooting someone.
- Never point a gun at yourself or someone else, even as a joke.

### Prevention for Parents

- Always treat guns as if they might be loaded.
- Always point guns in a safe direction. This means that even if the gun fired, it could not hurt anyone.
- Only touch the trigger of a gun if you intend to fire.
- Always store guns unloaded.
- Lock guns in a safe, and hide the keys/combination.
- Store ammunition separately from a gun, and always keep it locked.
- Take a firearm safety course.
- Talk to your children about gun safety. Ask if their friends have guns in their homes.
- Talk to the parents of homes your child may visit. Ask if they own a gun and how it is stored.
- Do not keep a gun in your home if a family member is suicidal, depressed, potentially violent, or has a mental illness.

### Internet Resources

- [http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/house/gun\\_safety.html#](http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/house/gun_safety.html#)
- <http://www.projectchildsafe.org/>
- <http://www.tn.gov/safety/pubsafety/handgunsafety.shtml>

*Hiding guns or putting them out of reach is not enough. Even a 3-year-old is strong enough to pull the trigger on a gun.*

*Many injuries happen in **predictable, preventable** ways.*

*Always treat guns as if they are loaded. Never point a gun at yourself or someone else.*

***Live Injury-Free!***