

Parental/Caregiver Responsibility

In a home where guns are kept, a child's safety rests on the parents or caregivers. Adults who accept the responsibility to learn, practice and teach gun safety rules will ensure their child's safety to a much greater extent than those who do not.

Talking openly and honestly about gun safety with your children is usually more effective than just ordering them to, "Stay out of the gun closet." Such statements may stimulate a child's natural curiosity to investigate further.

Parental and caregiver responsibility does not end, however, when the child leaves the home. It is critical for children to know what to do if they encounter a firearm anywhere, and it is the parent or caregiver's responsibility to provide that training. If your child sees a gun outside the home, teach them to follow the instructions:

"STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area."



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Handling Guns Safely



Storage:

- Unload guns when not in use.
- Store guns and ammunition separately.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Gun locks offer additional security.



Use:

- Regular cleaning is important for your gun to operate correctly and safely.
- Before cleaning your gun, be sure that it is unloaded.
- Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
- Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions.
- Never use alcohol or medication that would impair your judgment when using a gun.
- Know how to use the gun safely.
- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Remember:
Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling.

**Handling Guns
Safely**