



American Trauma Society
Pennsylvania Division

Is there a gun where my child plays?

Over 40% of homes with children have a gun.

Every year thousands of children are killed or injured in incidents involving adults' guns.

Just talking to your kids about the dangers of firearms is not enough. Kids are naturally fascinated with guns. That means, if there is a gun accessible, there is a good chance kids will find it and play with it.

So, before you send your child to someone's house (playmate, relative, neighbor), **ASK if they have a gun in the home**. If there is not a gun in the home...great! That's one less thing you have to worry about.

If there is a gun, ASK if the gun is stored unloaded and locked. Ideally, it should be stored in a gun safe, with ammunition locked separately. Hiding guns is not enough. There are countless tragic stories of kids finding guns that parents thought were well-hidden.

If you have any doubts about the safety of someone's home, you can invite the children to play at your house.

Please turn over for more valuable information!



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Smart parents ASK.

Tips to make ASKing easier

ASK with other questions. Include the question along with other things you might normally discuss before sending your child to someone's house (such as seat belts, animals, or allergies).

Use the facts. Over 40% of homes with children have guns that are left unlocked and loaded. That's why you're asking the question - you just want to make sure that your child is safe.

Work through groups. Introduce the ASK concept through a group or community effort (such as a religious group or your local PTA).

Don't be confrontational. Present your concerns in a respectful manner. You are simply trying to make sure your child is playing in a safe environment. Use literature like this bookmark to help open the dialogue.



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