



## Smart Parents **ASK**

### *Is There a Gun Where my Child Plays?*

More than **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 danger 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 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.**

## ASKing Tips

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

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

**Work through groups.** Introduce the ASK concepts through a group or community effort (such as 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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