

## Protect Children by Storing Guns Unloaded and Locked

Children are safer in homes without guns, but if you have a gun at home, follow these steps to safe storage:

- Unload gun...move away from others when handling a firearm.
- Store guns in a locked cabinet or gun safe and/or use a gun lock on each unloaded gun.
- Store guns out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store ammunition in a locked container in a separate location from guns. Remove keys and store them in a secure location.
- Keep the combination to the safe and keys to the gun locks hidden.
- Never leave a gun on a nightstand, table or other place where a child can find it.



## Ask: Is There a Gun Where My Child Plays?



**When your child visits a relative or friend's home, be sure to ask the adult if there are any guns in the home.**

**If so, ask if the guns are unloaded and stored in a gun cabinet or safe or with a gun lock. Ask if the ammunition is stored separately.**

**If you are uncomfortable with your children visiting a home, suggest that people bring children to your home instead.**

## Talk to Your Children About Gun Safety

Kids are curious. They love to explore. They usually don't have trouble finding a gun. Even if you think they don't know there's a gun in the house, there's a good chance they do...and will find it.

Some kids can't tell the difference between a "play" gun and a real one. Children as young as three may be strong enough to pull the trigger on a handgun.

A gun in the home increases the risk of suicide. For a depressed teenager, suicide is often an impulsive gesture and can be tragic if a gun is accessible.

***Let your children know they should never touch a gun. They should tell an adult right away if they see one.***

*Sources: Information provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence*



## Does a Gun in Your Home Make You Safer?

People often have guns for “personal protection.” But this may not really protect you. Consider these facts:

- A gun in your home greatly increases your risk for accidental shootings by someone in your family, causing death or serious injury.
- Statistics show that you are more likely to shoot someone by accident than you are to shoot a home invader.
- A gun in the house may make quarrels and arguments deadly.
- The chances of a woman being killed by an abusive partner are seven times greater if there is a gun in the house.
- The risk of suicide is three times greater when people have access to guns.
- Guns in the home are frequently stolen and used to commit crimes.

*Source; Hemenway, David, “Risks and Benefits of a Gun in the House.” American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine. Feb 2, 2011.*

## Lock It for Love

**Lock It for Love is a project of Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice. Its purpose is to provide gun safety information, to encourage the proper use of gun locks and to provide free gun locks to families.**

**For more information or to request Lock It for Love at a community event, email [gunsolutions@womensvoicesraised.org](mailto:gunsolutions@womensvoicesraised.org) or visit [womensvoicesraised.org](http://womensvoicesraised.org).**

**Gun lock demonstration video:  
<https://womensvoicesraised.org/videos/#demonstration>**

**Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice is a volunteer-driven organization that provides education and advocacy about a variety of social justice issues. For more information or to join the mailing list, email Women’s Voices at [info@womensvoicesraised.org](mailto:info@womensvoicesraised.org).**



## Keep Your Children Safe!



A project of  
**Women’s Voices  
Raised for Social Justice**  
7401 Delmar Blvd  
University City, MO 63130  
[gunsolutions@womensvoicesraised.org](mailto:gunsolutions@womensvoicesraised.org)  
[womensvoicesraised.org](http://womensvoicesraised.org)