

A gun is a magnet to a child, who too often mistakes it for a toy.

Tragically, hundreds of children are killed or permanently disabled each year by guns kept in their own homes. An estimated 1.2 million elementary-aged, latchkey children have access to these guns.

Ensure your guns are safely secured to prevent the needless loss of life and the possibility of criminal penalties. Safely storing and securing guns from children will help prevent accidents and save lives.

- Share information. Teach your children about the dangers of guns. They are not toys; they can kill or injure. What they see on TV and in the movies is different than real life.
- Hiding your gun is a good idea, but not good enough. A child's curiosity and desire to explore is strong.
- Secure an unloaded gun in a childproof container such as a safe or a locked box. Place the container in a high, unreachable location.
- Store ammunition separately in a safety storage device such as a trigger lock or locking cables. Partial disassembly is also an option.

A bullet from an unsecured gun can destroy the life of a child and change your life forever. A few moments of prevention may save a lifetime of sorrow.