



Guns are in more than one third of all U.S. households, so they're a very real danger to children, whether you own one or not. That's why it's important to talk to kids about the potential dangers of guns, and what to do if they find one.

If you do keep a gun in the house, it's vital to keep it out of sight and out of reach of your child. The gun should be kept locked and unloaded, and the ammunition should be stored separately.

### **Guns and Pretend Play**

Allowing kids to play with toy guns is a personal decision, as is how to respond to a child's pretend shooting action during the course of play. Remember that even if you don't allow your kids to have a toy gun, their friends may have them. So explain to your kids that real guns — unlike toy guns or those shown on TV, in movies, or in video games — can seriously injure or even kill a person.

### **Talking to Kids About Gun Safety**

Teach kids to follow these rules from the National Rifle Association (NRA) if they come into contact with a gun:

- stop
- don't touch
- remove yourself from the area
- tell an adult

It's particularly important that children leave the area where the gun is located to avoid being harmed by someone who doesn't know not to touch it. A child as young as 3 has the finger strength to pull a trigger.

It's also important for kids to tell an adult about a gun that's been found.

### **If You Have a Gun in Your Home**

Many kids are raised with guns in the home, particularly if hunting is an important part of family recreation. If you keep a gun in the home, it's important to teach your kids to act in a safe and responsible way around it.

To ensure the safest environment for your family:

- Take the ammunition out of the gun.
- Lock the gun and keep it out of reach of children.
- Lock the ammunition and store it apart from the gun.
- Store the keys for the gun and the ammunition in a different area from where you store household keys. Keep the keys out of reach of children.
- Lock up gun-cleaning supplies, which are often poisonous.

If you own a gun or have found one in your home and want to dispose of it, call your local police station. Do not dial 911 or an emergency line. Laws differ between states, but generally, the firearm will be checked to ensure it was not part of a criminal investigation and then it will be destroyed.

## **Gun Safety Outside Your Home**

Gun safety does not end when your child leaves your home. Kids can still come in contact with a gun at a neighbor's house, when playing with friends, or under other circumstances away from home. Discuss gun safety with other family members or the parents of friends if your child spends time in their homes. It may feel like an awkward conversation, but the person you ask will likely understand that you only have your child's safety in mind.

## **A Word About BB Guns**

BB guns and pellet guns are regulated by the government (F.S.S. 790.22). Children under the age of 16 are not allowed to possess these weapons unless under the direct supervision and in the presence of an adult. An adult responsible for a child under 16 allowed to violate this section could be found guilty of a misdemeanor violation. Kids who have a BB gun, or are likely to come into contact with one, must know to never point it at anyone, including themselves.



**Fellsmere Police Department Crime Watch Division**  
**"Community, Caring, Partnership"**

**Contact Us**

**Emergency calls 911**

**Crime Line 772-569-6700**

**Email [PoliceDepartment@CityofFellsmere.org](mailto:PoliceDepartment@CityofFellsmere.org)**

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