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**Help support statewide
efforts to prevent child abuse
and neglect**

Visit the [Kids First Trust Fund](http://www.in.gov/dcs/2456.htm) website to learn more
<http://www.in.gov/dcs/2456.htm>

For prevention and parenting information
and resources, call 1-800-CHILDREN
(1.800.244.5373)

To Report Abuse & Neglect
Call 1.800.800.5556

Gun Safety & Children



It is estimated that one-third
of homes with children
have a firearm in the household.
It is our responsibility to ensure a
child's safety if there is a gun in a
home where a child resides.



A Chartered State Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America

Talk to Your Kids and Their Caregivers

- Explain how a gun your kids might see on television or a video game is different from a gun in real life.
- It is imperative to teach your children the difference between a toy gun and a real one. Regardless, children should be taught to not point even a toy at anyone.
- It is good to teach kids to not touch a gun, but never assume that just because you told a child to never touch a gun, that it is then okay to leave one within reach. Children are too curious, and very young children will not remember that command. Some children as young as 3 have the strength to squeeze a trigger.
- Talk to grandparents, babysitters, and the parents of friends your children visit about safe gun storage practices.
- Teach your child that if they find a gun, to immediately tell an adult.

Dispose of Guns You Don't Need

- If you decide that you no longer need to have a gun in your home, dispose of it in a safe way. Every state has different laws, so consult with law enforcement in your community on how to do so.

Gleaned in part from www.safekids.org and www.kidshealth.org.

Store Guns and Ammunition Safely

- Keep guns in a locked space, unloaded, and out of the reach and sight of children.
- Keep ammunition in a separate locked area, out of the reach and sight of children.
- Keep any keys and/or combinations hidden.
- When a gun is not in its lock box, always keep it in your line of sight, and do not allow a child to touch it.
- Make sure all guns are equipped with effective, child-resistant gun locks.
- If a visitor brings a gun into your home, or is keeping it in an unlocked car, provide them with a locked place to store it while they are visiting you.
- Insure chamber is empty before attempting to clean the gun.
- Leaving guns on a nightstand, table or other place where a child can gain access may lead to injuries and fatalities.
- Even older children and teens need to be kept separated from firearms while they not under the close supervision of an adult. Sometimes a youth believes he or she has expertise in handling a weapon when in fact they do not.
- Suicide attempts are not always elaborately planned out by youth. They may make the decision in a very short period of time, and having immediate access to a firearm may be seen by that child as very opportunistic.

