

Take Control of Your Child's Safety

How to Talk About Gun Safety with Other Parents & Caregivers

Just like you ask about pets, allergies, or adult supervision, asking about firearms in the home should be a normal part of planning a playdate. It's not about judgment; it's about keeping kids safe.

WHY IT MATTERS Children are curious. If there's a gun in the home, research shows they're likely to know where it is, and many will handle it if they find it. Guns are now the leading cause of death for kids and teens in the U.S.



SAFE STORAGE SAVES LIVES

firearms should be **locked, unloaded, with ammo stored separately.**



Simple Ways to Start the Conversation

"Thanks for having Mia over! She has a nut allergy. I also ask: do you have any guns at home, and how are they stored?"

"Before we plan the playdate, I like to check: are there any unsecured guns in the home?"

"We both want our kids to be safe, if you have firearms, how are they stored?"



If You're Not Comfortable with the Response

- ✓ Offer to host the playdate.
- ✓ Suggest a public space like a park or library.
- ✓ It's okay to cancel - trust your instincts.

Lead by Example. If you own firearms, share how you store them safely when your child has guests.

It Gets Easier with Practice

These conversations save lives. Let's make firearm safety part of everyday parenting.



Funding for this project was made possible by funds received from the Office of Health Promotion, through the Illinois Department of Public Health.