

Many movies and video games contain the use of firearms and weaponry, and we ask you to have a conversation with your children about firearm safety. If you have guns in your home, this conversation is extremely important. As we travel across the country, we find many young people think they are an "expert" because they use a particular gun in their video game. This is the conversation we have with kids across the United States as we discuss firearm safety. If you have a gun at home, most children know where it is kept in your home and how to get it. To test them, ask these questions in the order below and start the conversation about firearm safety.

- Did you like the guns you see in movies and/or video games, they're cool aren't they?
 If your child says "yes", then have a conversation about what they like about guns
 If your child says "no", then have a conversation about why they don't like guns. (We've
 learned that there are many influences that make them scared of guns).
- 2: Did you know we have a gun? If your child says "yes" or "no" continue to next question.
- 3: We have the gun locked up and hidden. Do you know where it is? If your child says, "yes" skip Question 4 If your child says, "no" go to Question 5
- 4: So, if a bad guy was breaking into our house, you wouldn't know where to go to get it? Many times, when we ask this question, children actually say they would run and get it. You may discover that they actually know where your gun is located. Proceed to Question 6.
- 5: So, what would you do if a bad guy broke into the house and I couldn't get to my gun? Many times, when we ask this questions, kids will actually tell us they would run and get the gun, or try to stop the bad guy from getting it.

Now that you've assessed your child's mind-set on firearms, you can have a conversation about firearm safety. Then discuss your family's plan for home security. Just like tornado drills at school, these procedures should be practiced. It is our responsibility to teach kids firearm safety.



Gun safety used to be taught in schools, and now a days, it's just not part of the curriculum. It is our responsibility to teach kids firearm safety. Whether you have guns in your home or not, the fact is children are exposed to them in media every day, and should be taught what to do if they ever come across a gun in real life. We encourage you to have a discussion with your kids about firearm safety. Here are some questions to ask your child to get the discussion going.

1: If you were at your friend's house, and their parents just bought a new gun that looked just like the one use in your video game, and your friend said, "come with me to see my mom or dad's new gun" What would you do?

Normally, the children will say they wouldn't go see it. If they say they would go see it, go straight to teaching the rules – "Don't touch, Run Away and Tell and Adult". Then come back to question 2.

2: Let's say you are playing video games, and your friend brings a gun to you, and they are saying, "look at it, isn't it cool?" Then what do you do?

Normally, the child will say, I would tell them, "no, I don't want to see it"

Continue: But your friend is still there with the gun, waiving it around (hold your finger like a gun pointing towards the child), What will you do?

Normally, the child will look confused, if so, then tell them the rules again. You must say, "no, put it down, run away, and tell an adult" Explain that they may save their own life or their friends life. And even if they have other friends there that stay, teach your child they must leave and get an adult fast as they can.



RESOURCES

NSSF Project ChildSafe: <u>https://projectchildsafe.org/</u>

NRA Eddie Eagle: <u>https://eddieeagle.nra.org/</u>

Toys, Tools, Guns & Rules: A Children's Book About Gun Safety, by Julie Golob <u>https://www.juliegolob.com/books/kids-gun-safety-book</u>



USCCA Memberships offer training resources, reciprocity tools and legal tips and in some cases insurance. <u>click here</u>

