

It Doesn't Kill to Ask

Thirteen kids die from guns every day. But there is a way you can protect your child. Ask your family and friends if there's an unlocked gun in the house. It can save a life and it doesn't kill to ask.

How to Start Asking

Say my doctor asked me to



Try saying: "Hey, our pediatrician mentioned that guns are the leading cause of death for kids now and urged us to ask friends if there are any unlocked guns in the house."

Say a friend asked you



"Hey, the other day Jenny's friend asked if we had any unlocked guns in the house. We don't but it's pretty smart to ask. What about you? Are there any unlocked guns here?"

Say it's on my list



When dropping off your kids, have a list of safety questions and leave guns for last: "Hey, just wanted to ask a few safety questions: Any pets? Have a pool? What are your screen-time rules? Are there any unlocked guns in the house?"

Ask on social



Ask social media groups and get them talking: "Hey, has anyone been asked about unlocked guns lately? I was wondering because we were just asked and it's a pretty smart question – thoughts?"

Say you saw it on TV



"Hey, I just saw them talking about unlocked guns on one of the morning shows, on a parenting segment. Apparently it's the new 'safety' question. We have a gun but it's locked up out of sight. Do you have any?"

What If They Say 'Yes'?

Make it a deal-breaker

Your child's safety is more important than avoiding an awkward conversation. You can say: "I'm sorry, but John won't be able to visit unless your guns are locked up the whole time he's there. They're good kids, but they're curious and might explore things they shouldn't, and I don't want any accidents or injuries to happen. We'd love to invite you to our home instead."



Adapted by NorthShore – Edward-Elmhurst Health from Hospitals United

SOURCES: Everyday 13 kids are killed by guns: Data is from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2020, and from provisional data for years 2021-2022, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html> on Aug 29, 2022 11:47:51 AM

Guns are now the leading cause of death for kids and adolescents : New England Journal of Medicine. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2201761>
8 kids are shot unintentionally every day based: Brady United. <https://www.bradyunited.org/key-statistics>