



The Be SMART framework is designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety, reduce the deaths, injuries, and trauma that result when children gain access to unsecured firearms, and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries. Together we can protect kids using these “SMART” steps:

- Secure** all guns in your homes and vehicles;
- Model** responsible behavior around guns;
- Ask** about unsecured guns in other homes;
- Recognize** the role of guns in suicide;
- Tell** your peers to Be SMART

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens.



Learn how you can help save lives
[BeSMARTforKids.org](https://www.BeSMARTforKids.org)

Be SMART is a non-partisan educational program that is neutral on the topic of gun ownership; it does not encourage or discourage individuals from owning guns. It also does not advocate for changes to gun laws. Rather, it emphasizes the power of each and every adult to take agency over the safety of children and teens. This program emphasizes that secure storage is always the adult’s responsibility.

Throughout the US, an estimated 13 million households with children under the age of 18 contain at least one gun, and more than 4.6 million American children live in a household with an unlocked, loaded firearm. This is why the US Secret Service says that addressing student access to guns is a critical component of any school-based threat assessment intervention plan and secure storage—**storing guns unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition**—is a vital way to reduce youth suicides and keep schools safer from gun violence.

According to an analysis by Everytown for Gun Safety, more than 75 percent of unintentional shootings by children occurred in the victim’s home or car. Children will often find the hiding places for guns in homes and vehicles. Properly **locking a firearm and storing it unloaded and separately from ammunition**, as the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends, will help prevent dangerous situations. More than two-thirds of these tragedies could have been avoided if the gun owner had stored their guns responsibly.

Similarly, in 80% of shootings in K-12 schools where the source of the firearm was known, the perpetrator obtained the gun from home. Therefore, the first step to preventing unintentional child gun deaths, suicides, and school shootings is to **make sure that children do not have access to guns**.

Visit [BeSMARTforKids.org](https://www.BeSMARTforKids.org) to download resources and learn a set of guidelines to help parents and adults prevent child gun deaths and injuries. When it comes to kids’ safety, we’re all in this together!