

Secure firearm storage can help prevent school gun violence and gun violence among children and teens. Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with reductions in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens. One study found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens, compared to those that locked neither.

The Be SMART framework is designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries. To review the complete resources available, visit www.besmartforkids.org.

Tips for Talking to Young Children:

- Make it part of the normal safety conversation you have with your children.
- Keep the language simple; for example: “If you see a gun, don’t touch it. Tell an adult right away.”
- Tell children not to touch a gun, even if it looks like a toy.
- Assure children they will not get in trouble if they tell an adult they’ve seen a gun.
- Repeat it on a regular basis.

Tips for Talking to Adolescents:

- Include it in your general safety conversations about topics like drugs, alcohol, and drunk driving.
- Tell them to immediately leave any situation where an unsecured gun is present.
- Tell them not to listen to a friend who says a gun is unloaded or otherwise safe.
- Give your teen strategies to get out of a situation where a gun is present—or brainstorm them together.
- Assure them that it’s OK to ask people about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes they may be visiting, but offer to do it for them if they don’t feel comfortable.

In December 2021, the BHS Board of Education passed a resolution in support of gun safety and safe gun storage. As part of the resolution, the district periodically disseminates material stressing the importance of secure storage of firearms

DID YOU KNOW?

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children.



Every year, **350 children** in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else.

Nearly **700 children** living in America die by gun suicide every year, and secure storage can play a crucial role in preventing those deaths.



CDC WONDER, Underlying Cause of Death, Average, 2016-2020, Ages 0-17

BeSMARTforKids.org

What Is Secure Firearm Storage?

Unload: Remove all ammunition from the firearm, including removing any chambered rounds.

Lock: Secure guns with a firearm locking device, such as a jacket lock, or in a locked location, like a safe or lockbox.

Separate: Store ammunition in a secure location separate from the firearm.