



Teaching Kids about Firearm Safety

Half of U.S. homes have guns. So, you should talk with your children about firearms, whether or not you have any. All children need to know that guns are not toys – they can kill or hurt kids – FOR REAL.

Small Children Should Not be Handling Guns. Teach Them, if They Do Find a Gun:

- Do not touch.
- Leave the area.
- Tell an adult immediately.
- Repeat this message often, especially when you see guns on TV or in your child's play.

Kids from 6 to 12 are Very Curious about Guns:

- Remind them that guns and the damage they do are real.
- Never leave a child unsupervised with a gun.
- Teach children to handle guns safely, and always do it too.

Teens are Still Learning that Real Life is Different from TV, Video Games, and Movies

They often act without thinking things through. Among NH male teens, firearms are used nine times more often in suicides than in homicides. Help keep our young people safe.

- Stress the need to solve problems without guns or violence.
- If you do keep firearms, store them safely.
- Learn to look for signs of trouble in your teen.
- Seek outside help if you are concerned. To prevent potential suicides, temporarily remove all guns from your home.

The Negligent Storage of Firearms law takes effect on January 1, 2001. This makes it a violation to store a loaded firearm so that a child can gain access to it without permission if the weapon is used recklessly or threateningly.

