

# Troy School District Be Smart on Gun Safety

The BE SMART campaign was launched to raise awareness that secure gun storage (storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition) can save children's lives. BE SMART emphasizes that it's an adult responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and that every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer. Visit [BeSmartForKids.org](https://www.BeSmartForKids.org) for information on how to keep kids safe.

## Conversation Starters

### General Safety

*"Before I drop my son off, I just wanted to check to see if you have pets. Also, do you have firearms in your home? How are they stored? I want to make sure he knows your safety rules."*

### Teen Safety

*"I'm excited the kids are getting together this weekend. My daughter has never been to your house, I want to chat about a few things: Will an adult be home the whole time? Also, I heard a story on the news, and now I always ask, do you have any firearms, and how are they stored?"*

### Make it a Deal-Breaker

In the unlikely event that your friends or relatives don't confirm that they store guns securely, make sure they know that you won't allow your children in their home: *"I'm sorry, but unless you make sure your guns are locked the entire time we are in your home, we won't be able to make it. The kids are good kids, but curious, and I just can't take the risk of them hurting themselves or someone else. We'd be happy to have you at our house, instead, this year."*

## Be Smart Tips

### Tips for Talking to Young Children

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

### Tips for Talking to Adolescents

- Include it in general conversation topics like drugs, alcohol, and drunk driving.
- Advise them to leave any situation where an unsecured gun is present, and to NOT listen to a friend who states that a gun is unloaded/otherwise safe.
- Give your teen strategies to get out of a situation where a gun is present. Example: "Mom just texted me and I have to get home right now."
- 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.

## FIREARMS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICAN CHILDREN

- FIREARM = 2,526
- MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC = 2,240
- CANCER = 1,444
- POISONING = 979
- CONGENITAL ANOMALIES = 1,020

**Troy School District - Be SMART: Secure, Model, Ask, Recognize, and Tell**