DID YOU KNOW?

Unintentional shootings occur most frequently at times when children are likely to be home: over the weekend and after school.

Ask About Secure Gun Storage

Owning a gun is a personal decision, but secure storage is a public safety issue. Kids and unsecured guns are a potentially lethal combination.

Fortunately, a simple conversation can help keep children out of harm's way.

It doesn't need to feel strange or awkward to bring up the issue of how guns are stored. These simple conversations with your friends, caregivers, and relatives before your child visits someone's home can help save lives.

Sometimes, these conversations are easier via text. Try "sandwiching" your question amongst other questions and information.

"Before I drop my son off, I just wanted to see if you have pets and also ask if you securely store your firearms. I want to make sure he knows your safety rules."

"I saw something about firearm safety on the news and now always ask before my daughter visits another home, how do you store your firearms?"

Be SMART

Firearms are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Kansas (CDC, WONDER, 2024).

It's possible that some of your family members or close friends have unsecured guns in their homes and in their vehicles. Ask each time your child visits, as storage practices and gun ownership may change.

Never make assumptions when a child's safety is at stake. It's up to us all to keep our children safe.

To learn more, please visit:
besmartforkids.org