

**ARE THERE GUNS
WHERE YOUR CHILDREN PLAY?**

ASK™

Asking Saves Kids

DEAR FRIEND,

This advisory is issued to highlight the importance of asking about guns in the homes where children play and to address a very real risk children may face when they play in friends' homes.

We hope that you will help share this crucial information in your community by doing the following:

- Please post the attached advisory poster in a prominent place in your community where it will be seen by other parents (for example, in a doctor's office, a grocery store, a club or religious gathering place).
- Please photocopy the attached safety advisory and distribute to other parents in your community.
- And, most importantly, always ask if there are guns in the homes where your children play – and make sure your friends and loved ones do, too.

This advisory is issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics and PAX – Real Solutions to Gun Violence as part of the national ASK (Asking Saves Kids) campaign. We hope that you find that it provides a non-confrontational way for all parents to protect their children from a very real risk.

For more information on the ASK campaign, or to order additional brochures or posters, please call PAX at (212) 983 8705 ext. 267 or email PAX at ask@pax.com.

Sincerely,



Louis Z. Cooper, MD
President, American Academy of Pediatrics



Talmage Cooley
PAX, Co-Founder



Daniel Gross
PAX, Co-Founder

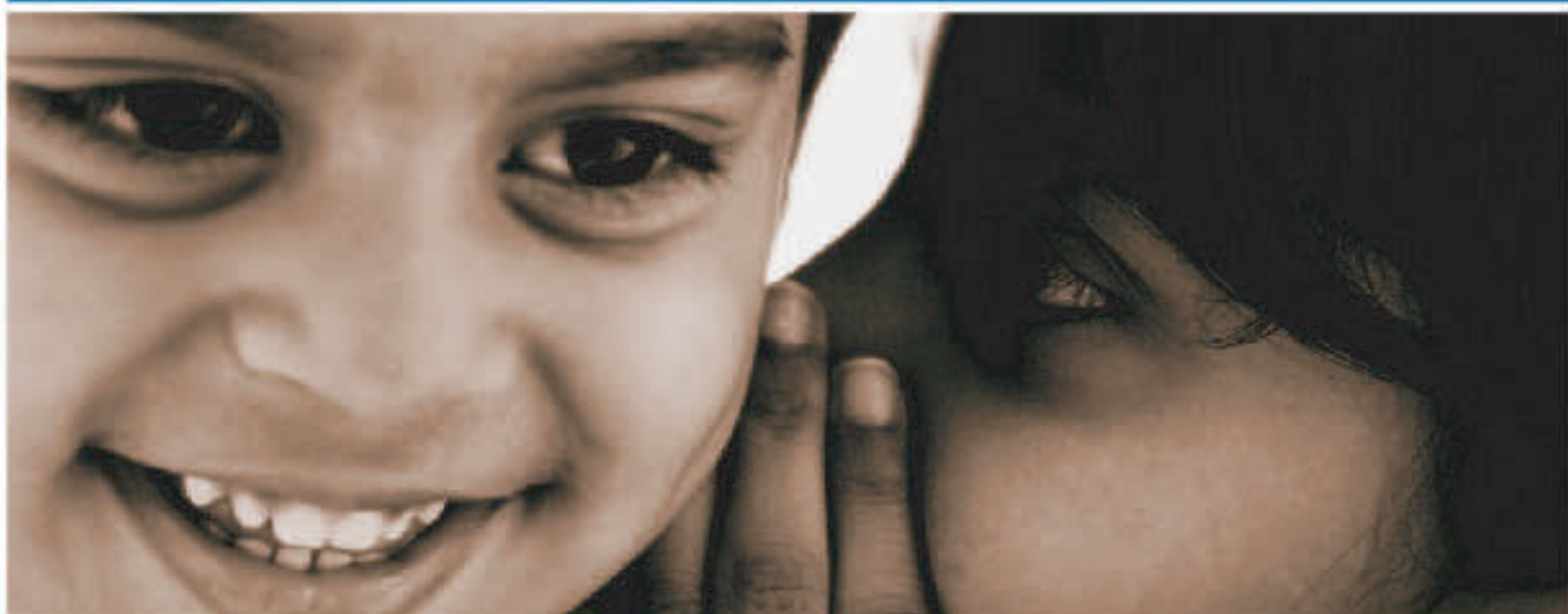


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40% OF HOMES WITH CHILDREN HAVE A GUN



40% OF HOMES WITH CHILDREN HAVE A GUN, MANY OF WHICH ARE LEFT UNLOCKED OR LOADED, AND EVERY YEAR, THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN ARE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED WITH THESE GUNS.

Just talking to your child about the dangers of firearms is not enough. Children are naturally curious. If a gun is accessible in someone's home, there is a good chance a child will find it and play with it. **Hiding guns is not enough.** There are countless tragic stories of kids finding guns parents thought were well hidden. If you have any doubts about the safety of someone's home, invite the children to your house instead.

ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR IF THEY HAVE A GUN BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO PLAY



IF THE ANSWER IS NO...
Then there is one less thing you have to worry about.

IF THE ANSWER IS YES...
Make absolutely sure that all guns are stored unloaded and locked – ideally in a gun safe – with ammunition locked separately.

TIPS TO MAKE ASKING EASIER



ASK WITH OTHER QUESTIONS
Include the question along with other things you might normally discuss before sending your child to someone's house, such as seat belts, animals or allergies.

USE THE FACTS
Over 40% of homes with children have a gun and many of those guns are left unlocked and loaded. That's why you're asking the question – you just want to make sure that your child is safe.

WORK THROUGH GROUPS
Introduce the ASK concept through a group or community effort, such as your religious organization or PTA.

DON'T BE CONFRONTATIONAL
Present your concerns in a respectful manner. You are simply trying to make sure your child is playing in a safe environment.

SAFETY ADVISORY

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ASK ABOUT GUNS BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE

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Then there is one less thing you have to worry about.

IF THE ANSWER IS YES...

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