

THE DENVER CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIMS



GUN SAFETY

Federal officials estimate there are guns in one half of the households in the United States. Therefore, children can easily come into contact with a gun at a neighbor's house, when playing with friends, or at home. Children cannot always separate fantasy from reality – there is nothing more empowering and dramatic in their fantasy world than to point something at someone, say “Pow” and have them fall dead, without understanding what dead really means. Adults trained in their proper operation should only handle guns.

For KIDS, if you see a gun...

- STOP...DO NOT TOUCH THE GUN! It may be real and it might be loaded.
- LEAVE THE AREA! Get away from the gun as fast as possible, even if it is at a friend's house. If it's real, you don't want to be around if someone picks it up or starts to play with it!
- TELL AN ADULT RIGHT AWAY! As fast as you can, tell your parents, or some other adult you know, that you saw a gun, and where it was. The adult should then report it to the police department or, if at someone's home, speak with the adults there about the proper way to store guns.

For ADULTS, you have the responsibility to...

- Educate children about the dangers of guns – they can and DO MAIM AND KILL!
- Learn how to keep your own guns stored safely out of the way of children.
- Explain the reasons for your rules about handling guns and review them often.
- Ask about guns at your children's friends' houses. Don't be shy about asking the adults if there are guns in the house and how they are stored and handled.
- Check with your local police or gun club about gun safety classes for kids and parents.

EDUCATE CHILDREN KEEP KIDS SAFE! EDUCATE YOURSELF

Any child can become the innocent victim of someone else's carelessness, so...

- Treat every firearm with respect...always assume it is loaded.
- Unload weapons when not in use. People cannot be shot accidentally unless guns are loaded.
- Keep all weapons locked away securely. Keep bullets locked separately from guns.
- Never point a gun at anything; never “play” with weapons.
- Equip guns with trigger locks that are distributed free or at low cost by many law enforcement agencies.