

Basic Gun Safety Rules for Responsible Adults

The following three rules are fundamental in any situation. Whether or not you own a gun, it is important to know these rules so that you may insist that others follow them.

1. **Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.** Whether you are shooting or simply handling a gun, never point it at yourself or others. Common sense will tell you which direction is the safest. Outdoors, it is generally safe to point the gun toward the ground, or, if you are at a shooting range, toward the target. Indoors, be mindful of the fact that a bullet can penetrate ceilings, floors, walls, windows, and doors.
2. **Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.** When holding a gun, rest your trigger finger outside the trigger guard alongside the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.
3. **Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.** Keep out of reach of persons who cannot legally possess guns because of age, mental capacity, etc.

Rule 6 Student Code of Conduct

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments:

A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit the following: a razor, razor blade, ice pick, explosives, loaded cane, sword cane, machete, knife, pistol, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, laser devices, chemical agents or other liquids or other objects that can be reasonably considered a weapon or instrument that can reasonably pose a danger to the health and safety of students, teachers, or any other person: On school grounds at any time; Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event; Enroute to and from school.

For additional information: [O.C.G.A 16-11-127.1](#)

Weapons on school safety zones, school buildings grounds or at school functions.



Local Contact Information:

RCSS School Safety and
Security 864 Broad Street
Augusta, Ga. 30901
706-826-1133

For Additional Information and Resources:

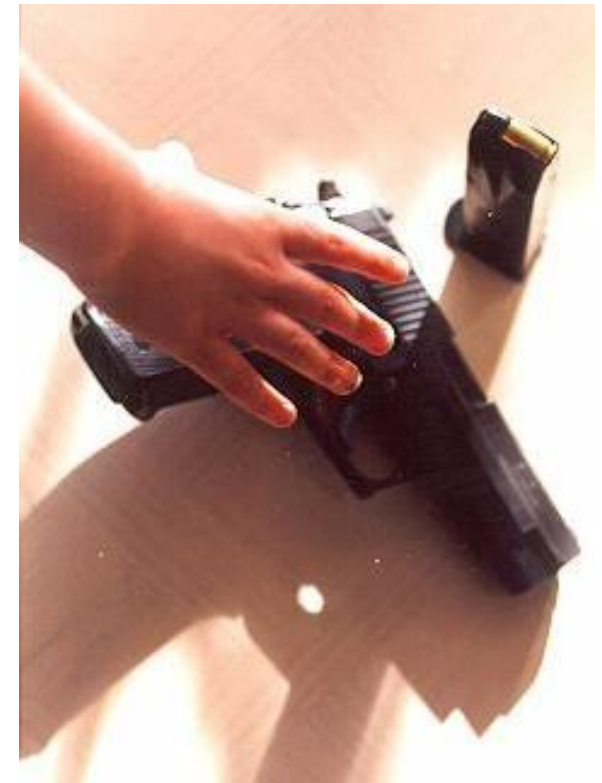
Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program
National Rifle Association
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
(800) 231-0752 or (800) 336-7402
eddie@nrahq.org

PROTECT THE ONES YOU LOVE!



Learning today...Leading tomorrow

A GUIDE TO



GUN SAFETY

The Richmond County School System Department of School Safety and Security values its relationships with the citizens that it serves. The department and its members take pride in ensuring that the schools in which we serve are safe for all people, whether they be students, staff, or visitors. We feel an informed community is a safe community. Therefore, we have created this pamphlet to help provide safety tips that you can use to help minimize the possibility of a firearm mishap involving children.



The Parents' Responsibility

In a home where guns are kept, the degree of safety a child has rests squarely on the parents.

Parents who accept the responsibility to learn, practice and teach gun safety rules, will ensure their child's safety to a much greater extent than those who do not. Parental responsibility does not end, however, when the child leaves the home.

According to federal statistics, guns are present in approximately one-half of all American households. Even if no one in your family owns a gun, chances are that someone you know does. Your child could come in contact with a gun at a neighbor's house, when playing with friends, or under other circumstances outside your home. Most people don't advertise the fact that they own guns. Before your child visits a friend, make sure you check with the friend's parents to see if they have guns in their home.

It is critical for your child to know what to do if he or she encounters a firearm, and it is the parents' responsibility to provide that training.

Talking With Your Child About Gun Safety

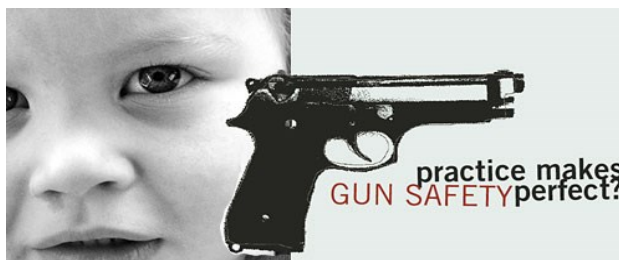
There is no particular age to talk with your child about gun safety. A good time to introduce the subject is the first time he or she shows an interest in firearms, even toy pistols or rifles. Talking openly and honestly about gun safety with your child is usually more effective than just ordering him or her to "Stay out of the gun closet," and leaving it at that. Such statements may just stimulate a child's natural curiosity to investigate further.

As with any safety lesson, explaining the rules and answering a child's questions helps to remove the mystery surrounding guns. Any rules set for your own child should also apply to friends who visit the home. This will help keep your child from being pressured into showing a gun to a friend.

Toy Guns vs. Real Guns

It is also advisable, particularly with very young children, to discuss gun use on television and in video games, as opposed to gun use in real life. Firearms are often handled carelessly in movies and on TV. Additionally, children see TV, movie, and video game characters shot and "killed" with well-documented frequency. When a young child sees that same actor appear in another movie or TV show, confusion between entertainment and real life may result. It may be a mistake to assume that your child knows the difference between being "killed" on TV and in reality. With video games becoming increasingly violent and realistic, children can become de-sensitized to death and gore. Some games actually encourage or require a player to participate in a number of violent crimes, up to, and including, murder.

If your child has toy guns, explain the seriousness of bringing them to school. Make sure they understand that ANY gun should be treated as loaded, and no guns, including toys, should ever be pointed at another! Frequently check your child's bookbag before they leave for school, and after returning home.



What Should You Teach Your Child About Gun Safety?

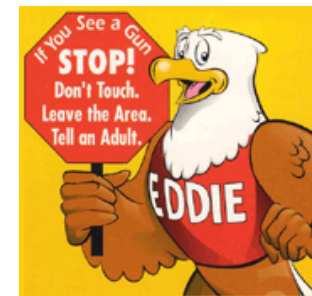
If you have decided that your child is not ready to be trained in a gun's handling and use, teach him or her to follow the instructions of NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program. If you find a gun:

STOP!

Don't Touch.

Leave the Area.

Tell an Adult.



The initial steps of "Stop" and "Don't Touch" are the most important. To counter the natural impulse to touch a gun, it is imperative that you impress these steps of the safety message upon your child.

In today's society, where adult supervision is not always possible, the direction to "Leave the Area" is also essential. Under some circumstances, area may be understood to be a room if your child cannot physically leave the apartment or house.

"Tell an Adult" emphasizes that children should seek a trustworthy adult, neighbor, relative or teacher -- if a parent or guardian is not available.

Guns at School

Sometimes what you hear on the news can be scary, especially when it involves children getting hurt at school. One thing to remember about gun violence at school is that it doesn't happen very often. School is actually one of the safest places for your child to be. Most schools never experience serious violence. Talk with your child about the possibility of something happening at school. Explain that if someone at school threatens them or talks about bringing a gun to school, to "Speak up" and tell an adult as soon as possible. Explain they should not feel they are being a "tattletale" if they tell an adult that someone is threatening them. They will not get into trouble for reporting that they do not feel safe or the fact another student is doing or saying something that scares them. Tell them to be a hero and prevent a tragedy from happening.