

STRONG⁴LIFE™



Children's™
Healthcare of Atlanta

Gun safety in the home

Any child could be at risk for firearm injury. Many injuries occur within the home or at homes children visit, and children as young as 2 are strong enough to pull the trigger.

Pediatric Firearm Injury: Who's at Risk

Every day,

87 children

are injured or killed by guns in the U.S.

In 2020

Total pediatric
hospital visits:

▼40%

Firearm-related
visits:

▲39%



Safe Storage Tips

- **Unload the firearm.** Never keep a loaded gun in the house (or car).
- **Lock the firearm.** Use a lockbox or gun safe, with trigger and/or cable locks as additional safety measures.
- **Add layers of protection.** Teens can be impulsive, acting without thinking about consequences.
 - Store ammunition locked in a separate location from firearms.
 - Try to use personalized lockboxes or combinations rather than keypad lockboxes.
 - Store lockboxes and safes out of reach and sight.
 - Keep keys away from kids and teens.
 - Do not share combination codes with kids or teens.
- **Never assume hiding your gun is enough.** Kids young and old are curious and resourceful.



How to ask friends and family about guns

A few moments of discomfort will never outweigh the importance of keeping your child safe.

- **Make it routine** to ask about any safety-related concerns before you drop your child off at another person's home. If you make it a habit, you'll feel more comfortable asking.
- **Try to ask before making plans.** This way, you can make an informed decision about where your child spends time. If you're not comfortable, you can invite the other child to your home instead.
- **Lead with information about your family.** If you lead with statements about your home, the conversation may feel less personal. For example, try something like "My child isn't a confident swimmer. Will you let me know if you'll be around water? We also don't keep firearms in the home. Do you?"
- **Be clear and direct.** Rather than make assumptions about someone's home, ask clear and direct questions so you are fully aware of the situation. It's OK to simply ask, "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" This isn't a personal attack or a debate about someone's beliefs or rights, it's about your child's safety.