



American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™  
Ohio Chapter



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF COLUMBUS



**Buckeye  
Firearms  
Association**



## “Store It Safe” Physician Discussion Guide

*provided by the Partnership for the Safety of Children Around Firearms*

- **Store It Safe** was established to keep children safe from accidental gun deaths and teens safe from suicide by firearms.
- To help achieve this goal we are encouraging pediatricians to talk to ALL families about gun safety and encourage firearm owners to store their guns responsibly – locked and out of the reach of children and family discussion of gun safety with ALL children.

### Suggestions for Productive Dialogue

- Safe firearm storage should be incorporated into the normal safety discussion of a well child visit – just as you would talk about safe storage of medications, harmful chemicals, etc.
- Between 30-40% of Ohio homes have firearms, so assume that your patient’s family has a firearm in the home.
- Ask about firearm storage in a non-judgmental way.
  - Instead of asking “Do you have a gun in the home?” ask “If there is a gun in the home, is it kept locked and away from children?”
    - If yes, that is great. Families should still be encouraged to talk to their children about gun safety in case they encounter an unsecured gun in another setting.
    - If no, there is an opportunity for education about **Store It Safe**
    - If the response is “we don’t own a gun” then the healthcare provider should still encourage the parents talk to the child about firearm safety, because chances are that the child is going into another home where there is a firearm.

### Additional Resources

- <http://ohioaap.org/firearmsafety>
- <http://projectchildsafe.org/talking-to-kids>
- <https://afsp.org/about-suicide/firearms-and-suicide-prevention/>

### Questions?

- Contact Program Manager, Hayley Southworth, at (614) 846-6258 or [hsouthworth@ohioaap.org](mailto:hsouthworth@ohioaap.org)
- Resources for families in English, Spanish and Somali can be found at <http://ohioaap.org/firearmsafety>