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?”
  o 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.
  o If no, there is an opportunity for education about Store It Safe.
  o 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

Questions?

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