

# “Store It Safe” Physician Handout

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 have 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?”**
  - 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>
- <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>

Partnership for  
**[SAFETY]**  
**of Children**  
Around Firearms

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



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