

Firearm Safety Basics

Keeping your kids safe at home, school, work, and play.

Instruct your children to do the following if they encounter an unsecured firearm.



Do not touch the gun, even if it looks like a toy.



Leave the area that they saw the gun.



Immediately tell a trusted adult.

Ensure safe storage of firearms at home.

If you have guns in your home, here are the ways that they should be stored for safety.

Adults should always complete these safety measures, but it's important that children understand safe storage and why it's important.



Guns can be **taken apart** before being stored.



Locks can be placed on the gun before storing.



Guns can be stored in a **lockbox** or **gun safe**.

Being safe around guns depends on their proper storage, but did you know that health plays a role, too?

30%

The **rate of suicide among young adults (aged 15-24) in Missouri is on the rise**, up more than 30% since 2012.

66%

Approximately 66% of adolescents who died by suicide had access to an unsecured firearm.

Health factors to pay attention to include:

If your child is experiencing feelings of **sadness**, or frequent **mood swings**, feeling **withdrawn**, losing interest in things they once enjoyed or having **trouble sleeping**, it's a good idea to check in with them, express concerns to their teachers, a counselor, or licensed therapist.



If you or someone you know is in crisis, you are not alone.

- **24/7 Crisis Hotline:** 1-800-273-8255
- **24/7 Crisis Hotline (Text):** Text TALK to 741-741 to message with trained crisis counselor from the Crisis Text Line for free