

Basic Gun Safety Rules

The following three rules are fundamental in any situation. Whether or not you own a gun, it is important to know these rules so that you may insist that others follow them.

1. **Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.** Whether you are shooting or simply handling a gun, never point it at yourself or others. Common sense will tell you which direction is the safest. Outdoors, it is generally safe to point the gun toward the ground, or, if you are at a shooting range, toward the target. Indoors, be mindful of the fact that a bullet can penetrate ceilings, floors, walls, windows, and doors.
2. **Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.** When holding a gun, rest your trigger finger outside the trigger guard alongside the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.
3. **Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.** If you do not know how to check to see if a gun is unloaded, leave it alone. Carefully secure it, being certain to point it safely and to keep your finger off the trigger, and seek competent assistance. **“ALL GUNS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED LOADED”.**

Gun Owners' Responsibilities

Parents need to take reasonable steps to deny access by children to dangerous substances or instruments. It is the individual gun owner's responsibility to understand and follow all laws regarding gun purchase, ownership, storage and transport. Contact your local police for information regarding such laws. If you own a gun and do not know how to operate it, do not experiment with it. Point it in a safe direction, keep your finger off the trigger, and store it securely. Seek competent assistance and instruction at once. An untrained adult can be as dangerous as a curious child.

Store guns so that they are inaccessible to children and other unauthorized users. Gun shops sell a wide variety of safes, cases, and other security devices. While specific security measures may vary, a parent must, in every case, assess the exposure of the firearm and absolutely ensure that it is inaccessible to a child.

DUVALL POLICE



<http://duvallwa.gov/departments/police.html>

Local Contact Information:

Duvall Police Department
26225 NE Burhen Way
Duvall, WA 98019
(425) 788-1519

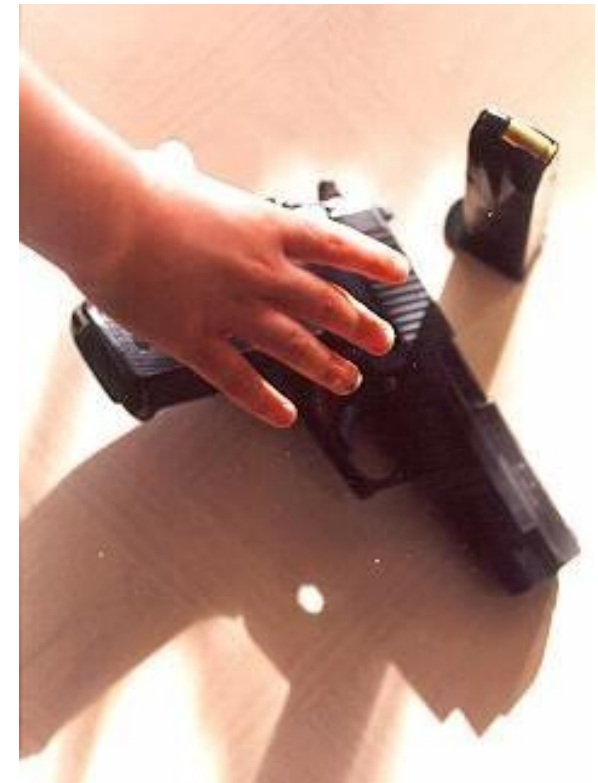
Additional Information:

Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program
National Rifle Association
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
(800) 231-0752 or (800) 336-7402
eddie@nrahq.org

PROTECT THE ONES YOU LOVE!



A GUIDE TO



GUN SAFETY

The Duvall Police Department values its relationships with the citizens that it serves. The police department and its members pride themselves on ensuring that the communities in which we serve are safe for all people, whether they are residents, friends and family of residents, or tourists passing through. We feel an informed community is a safe community; therefore, we have created this pamphlet to help provide safety tips that you can use to help minimize the possibility of a firearm mishap involving children.



The Parents' Responsibility

In a home where guns are kept, the degree of safety a child has rests squarely on the parents.

Parents who accept the responsibility to learn, practice and teach gun safety rules will ensure their child's safety to a much greater extent than those who do not. Parental responsibility does not end, however, when the child leaves the home.

According to federal statistics, there are guns in approximately half of all American households. Even if no one in your family owns a gun, chances are that someone you know does. Your child could come in contact with a gun at a neighbor's house, when playing with friends, or under other circumstances outside your home. Most people don't advertise the fact that they own guns. Before your child visits a friend, make sure you check with the friend's parents to see if they have guns in their home.

It is critical for your child to know what to do if he or she encounters a firearm anywhere, and it is the parents' responsibility to provide that training.

Talking With Your Child About Gun Safety

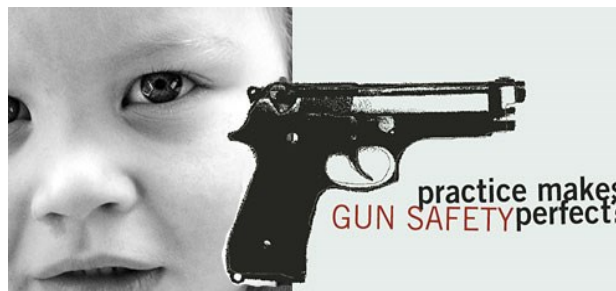
There is no particular age to talk with your child about gun safety. A good time to introduce the subject is the first time he or she shows an interest in firearms, even toy pistols or rifles. Talking openly and honestly about gun safety with your child is usually more effective than just ordering him or her to "Stay out of the gun closet," and leaving it at that. Such statements may just stimulate a child's natural curiosity to investigate further.

As with any safety lesson, explaining the rules and answering a child's questions, helps to remove the mystery surrounding guns. Any rules set for your own child should also apply to friends who visit the home. This will help keep your child from being pressured into showing a gun to a friend.

Toy Guns vs. Real Guns

It is also advisable, particularly with very young children, to discuss gun use on television as opposed to gun use in real life. Firearms are often handled carelessly in movies and on TV. Additionally, children see TV and movie characters shot and "killed" with well-documented frequency. When a young child sees that same actor appear in another movie or TV show, confusion between entertainment and real life may result. It may be a mistake to assume that your child knows the difference between being "killed" on TV and in reality.

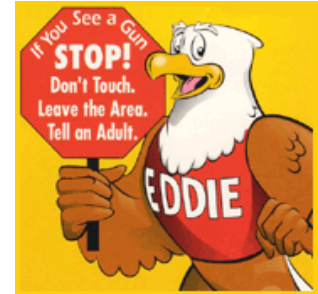
If your child has toy guns, you may want to use them to demonstrate safe gun handling and to explain how they differ from genuine firearms. Even though an unsupervised child should not have access to a gun, there should be no chance that he or she could mistake a real gun for a toy.



What Should You Teach Your Child About Gun Safety?

If you have decided that your child is not ready to be trained in a gun's handling and use, teach him or her to follow the instructions of NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program. If you find a gun:

- STOP!**
- Don't Touch.**
- Leave the Area.**
- Tell an Adult.**



The initial steps of "Stop" and "Don't Touch" are the most important. To counter the natural impulse to touch a gun, it is imperative that you impress these steps of the safety message upon your child.

In today's society, where adult supervision is not always possible, the direction to "Leave the Area" is also essential. Under some circumstances, area may be understood to be a room if your child cannot physically leave the apartment or house.

"Tell an Adult" emphasizes that children should seek a trustworthy adult, neighbor, relative or teacher -- if a parent or guardian is not available.

Guns at School

Sometimes what you hear on the news can be scary, especially when it involves children getting hurt at school. One thing to remember about gun violence at school is that it doesn't happen very often. School is actually one of the safest places for your child to be. Most schools never experience serious violence. Talk with your child about the possibility of something happening at school. Explain that if someone at school threatens them or talks about bringing a gun to school, to "Speak up" and tell an adult as soon as possible. Explain they should not feel they are being a "tattletale" if they tell an adult that someone is threatening them. They will not get into trouble for reporting that they do not feel safe or the fact another student is doing or saying something that scares them. Tell them to be a hero and prevent a tragedy from happening.