



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We all want our children to fulfill their utmost potential, and it is our responsibility to provide them with safe environments, at home, in school, and where they play.

**Did you know?**

- **1 out of 3 homes with children has guns, many left unlocked or loaded**
- **46 children are shot every day in the United States**
- **80% of unintentional firearm deaths of children under 15 occur in the home**
- **Teens are twice as likely to die from suicide when there is a gun in the home**

These facts are an urgent reminder that as parents and guardians, we must do everything we can to prevent child gun deaths. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that parents who choose to own guns should keep them locked, unloaded, and stored separately from ammunition. A hidden gun is not a secured gun; 40% of children know where the guns are hidden.

Furthermore, California law holds a person criminally liable for keeping a loaded firearm where he or she knows or reasonably should know a child is likely to gain access to it. (CA Penal Code §§ 25100 – 25200)

The Asking Saves Kids (ASK) Campaign seeks to inspire parents to always ask, "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" when arranging children's play dates. Have a conversation about firearms in the home with every adult who supervises your children.

Please visit <http://www.askingsaveskids.org> to learn more about the program, and pledge to always ASK before your child visits a friend, family member, or neighbor's home.

