

The Child You Save May Be Your Own

If you own a handgun:

- There's no such thing as a loaded gun that is safe in a home especially if children are around.
- Store your unloaded gun in a locked box or cabinet.
- Invest in tamper resistant trigger locks, pistol lock boxes or gun cabinets with locks. Make sure children do not have access to the keys, and that the keys cannot be duplicated.
- Lock up ammunition separately away from the heat or moisture.
- Do not store your handgun among jewelry, silver or other valuables.
- Do not store your handgun under your pillow, mattress, or on a bedside table.
- Never leave a gun unattended. It should be under your supervision and in your view at all times.
- Prior to cleaning or handling your gun, make sure it is unloaded to avoid the possibility of an unintentional discharge.

If you would like a free gunlock from Project Childsafe please contact the Hardee County Sheriff's Office at 863-773-0304 ext 204 for availability.



Gun Awareness



Hardee County
Sheriff's
Office

Sheriff Arnold Lanier

Gun Awareness

- One half of the homes in the United States have guns, Even if you do not have a gun in your home, talk to your children about guns. Answer any questions your child may have honestly and openly. If you cannot answer their questions, contact a knowledgeable person who can. By removing the mystery surrounding guns, your child will be far less curious about guns, and more likely to follow safety rules.
- Children need to know guns are not "toys" and they hurt and kill people everyday. If your child sees a gun, teach them to:

1. Stop
2. Do not touch.
3. Leave the area.
4. Tell an adult



Because children learn gradually, you should reinforce this message by repeating it periodically and test the rules from time to time.

- Kids see the power that comes from shooting guns on television and in some video games. They idolize gun-toting heroes in the movies.
- On television, in the movies, and in cartoons, kids see actors and characters stand up and walk away after being shot. They do not see the real impact of a gun; the loss of life or the lifetime of grieving for their loved ones.
- Explain to children and teens the risks of gun injury outside the home in places they may visit or play. Before you allow your children to visit a friend's house, ask the parents if there are any guns in the house. **If they own a gun, find out if precautions have been taken and if it is locked away.**

" ALWAYS keep your gun locked up and out of the reach of children."

Toy guns are also dangerous. After playing with a toy gun, young children may pick up a real gun, thinking it is a toy.



- Set a good example in how you handle anger, disagreements and sadness. Show your children and teens how to settle arguments without resorting to words or actions that can hurt.
- Support your school staff in their efforts to keep knives, guns, and other weapons out of schools.

Did You Know?

- A kid dies every 9 hrs in a gun accident or suicide. NCHS/CDC
- 40% of American households with children have guns. SOURCE/ HART
- In 2005, there were 16,298 kids injured by a firearm -- and an additional 14,052 kids were injured from BB or pellet guns. NCHS/CDC
- Since 1990, more than 5,000 children have been killed in firearm accidents NCHS/CDC
- 47% of high school students (60% of boys) said they could obtain a gun if they wanted to, while 22% of middle school students (31% of boys) said they could get a firearm. HARVARD/SPH
- 28% of gun-owning households with children do not always keep guns locked in a secure place. NJJ