

# Guidelines for Approaching Gun Safety

**Q1: Do you need a gun lock?**

Yes

*Sure. Children are curious and sometimes impulsive, and don't always think before they act.*

*Having a gun stored and unloaded is the best way to prevent accidents.*

*Here's info on where to get a gun lock.*

**Q2: Is/Are your guns kept unloaded?**

Yes

*Great! This actually keeps your family safe.*

No

*Can you store it unloaded?*

*Please keep your gun(s) unloaded, and locked away.*

**Q3: Have you taught your children about the dangers of guns?**

Yes

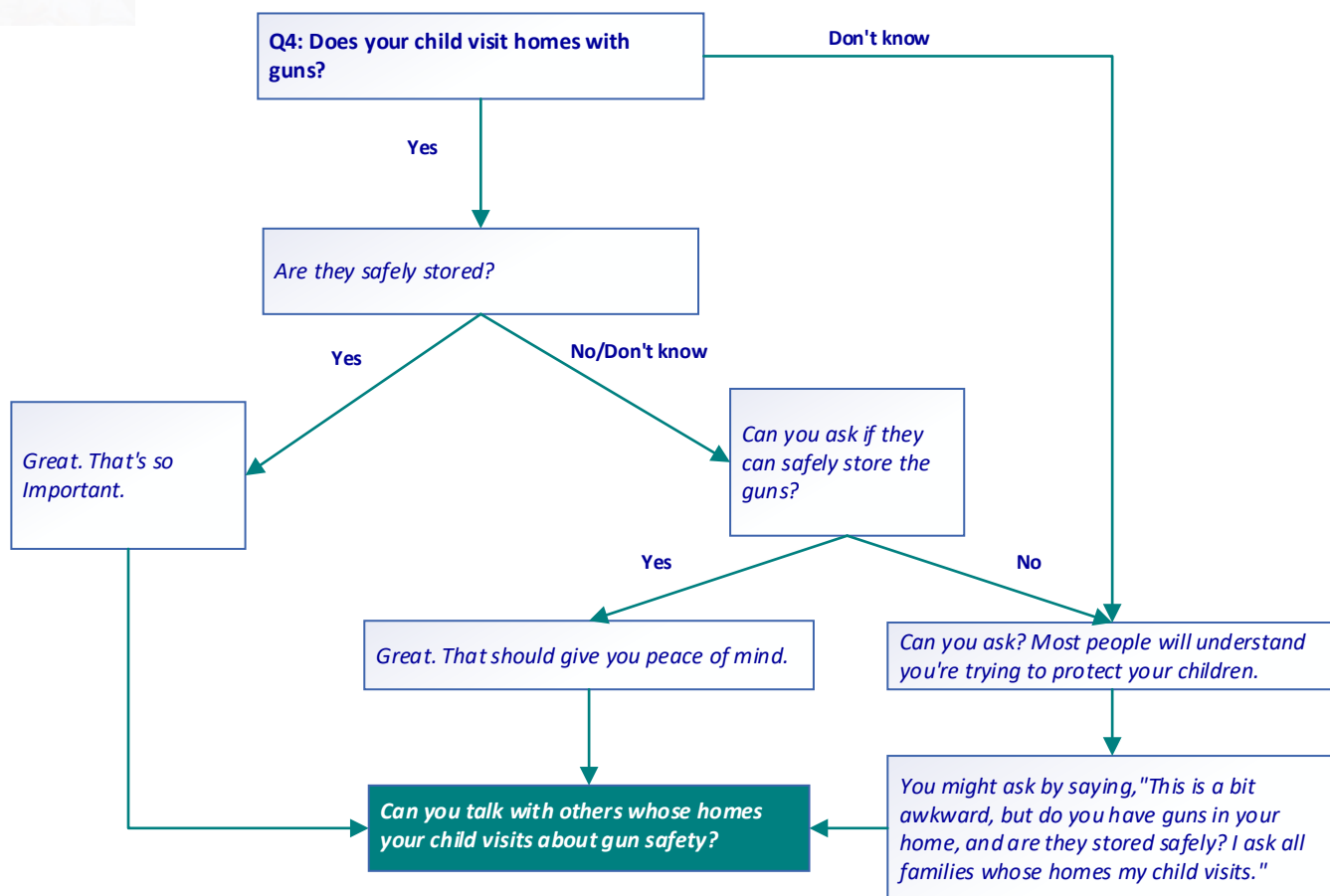
*Great! This helps keep your family safe. However, it is still best to store your gun locked and unloaded.*

No

*Can we talk about teaching your child(ren) what to do if they see a gun?*

*Here's info for your child: "Guns are dangerous; if you see one, anywhere, please don't touch it. Tell me about it, ASAP".*

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## Gun Safety – Addressing Possible Barriers

Barrier: **I don't think it's dangerous to have a gun in my home**

Suggested Response:

- *Lots of people have guns in their homes. I understand it can help you feel safe*
- *But it can still be unsafe for you and your family*
- *Would you like to discuss gun safety?*
  - Keep guns unloaded and locked up in a cabinet, safe, gun vault, or storage case
  - Keep ammunition separate from the gun, like in a lock box
  - Use a gun trigger lock (a lock so that the gun can't fire accidentally)
  - Use the owner's fingerprint to open trigger locks and gun safes
  - Hide the keys (or passcode) to the locked storage

Barrier: **I don't think my child will look for or touch my gun**

Suggested Response:

- *I hear you that you think your child would not look for or touch your gun*
- *Child(ren) are naturally curious. They may not know how dangerous guns are*
- *Can we talk about teaching your child(ren) what to do if they see a gun?*
  - Convey how dangerous guns are
  - Teach your child(ren) these rules:
    - Do not touch the gun, or allow anyone else to, even if it looks like a toy
    - Leave the area where the gun is
    - Tell an adult right away

Barrier: **I don't think I need to teach my child about gun safety**

Suggested Response:

- *I hear you that you don't think child(ren) need to learn about gun safety*
- *But children may not know how dangerous guns are*
- *I want to help keep your child(ren) safe*
- *Can we talk about teaching about gun safety?*
  - Convey how dangerous guns are
  - Teach your child(ren) these rules if they see a gun:
    - Do not touch the gun, or allow anyone else to, even if it looks like a toy
    - Leave the area where the gun is
    - Tell an adult right away
- *If you've already taught your child(ren) about gun safety, please continue to talk about the dangers of guns with your child(ren)*

Barrier: **I don't think I can ask family / friends if they have guns in their home**

Suggested Response:

- *It may feel awkward to ask, but most people will understand you're trying to protect your child(ren)*

- *It's best to be sure your child(ren) is safe*
- Try asking:
  - My child(ren) is very curious. Is there anything dangerous, like a gun, they might get into?
  - Our doctor recommended that I make sure there are no guns where my child(ren) plays. Do you have any guns at home?
- If you don't have a gun in your home:
  - Convey it's actually safest for kids to be in a home without guns

Barrier: **I don't know where to get a gun trigger lock**

Suggested Response:

- *I understand you're unsure where to get a gun lock*
- *These are important to keep you child(ren) safe*
- *I have a handout with info about where you can find one nearby*