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.

- 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?

- The rate of suicide among young adults (aged 15-24) in Missouri is on the rise, up more than 30% since 2012.
- 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If your child is experiencing feelings of sadness, or frequent mood swings, feeling withdrawn, losing interest in things they once enjoyed or having trouble sleeping, it’s a good idea to check in with them, express concerns to their teachers, a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

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