

# It's a Matter of Life or Death

When you rely on weapons instead of words to finish conflicts, no one wins. Too often, our people rely on guns as a way to “end it”, but with our help, they can STOP AND THINK!

Life is precious - even the life of someone you might not agree with. Finding other ways to handle conflicts can save you time, money, imprisonment, and your reputation.

“

You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results.

- Mahatma Gandhi

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# Gun Safety: Think First!





# All You Need to Know

Gun violence has harmed too many people in our community - both young and old. The first victims are those directly harmed by bullets and the second victims are their families, neighborhoods, schools, medical providers, and the whole community.

Every person should take a stand against gun violence by following simple, but important guidelines that can save the lives of our families and neighbors, and create safer communities. The care and actions you take today can make a lifetime of difference for many people. Use your abilities to save your life or the lives of others.

# Ten Tips for Firearm Safety

Project ChildSafe provides the following tips to reduce chances of harm caused by someone with a gun:

1. Always keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction so that even an accidental discharge would not result in injury
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you actually intent to shoot. Rest your finger on the side of the weapon.
3. Firearms should be unloaded when not in actual use. Whenever you pick up a gun, point it in a safe direction and make sure it is unloaded.
4. Be sure to know how a weapon operates.
5. Store weapons in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case when not in use. Make sure the weapon cannot be used by anyone without your permission.
6. Store ammunition in a locked location separate from the weapon.
7. Use a gun locking device that does not allow the gun to function when not in use.
8. Make sure children in your home understand safety guidelines about guns. Tell them not to touch the gun unless a responsible adult is present.
9. Always unload, clean, and place the weapon in a secure storage location immediately.
10. Educate everyone in your family about firearm safety.



# Teach Children Respect for Life

Even when the ten tips are followed, guns are sometimes obtained legally or illegally to harm others. Often times, weapons are used to “settle a beef”, to get even, or to simply show power over others’ lives.

Parents and responsible adults know how challenging life can be, especially when we struggle to reach our goals. Teach children and young adults to learn from failures and to rise above them without resorting to violence. Violence, especially gun violence, leaves everyone worse off - no one wins, everyone loses!

If you want your community to be strong, resilient, and safe, **YOU ARE THE ANSWER.** Secure any and all weapons and talk to your children and young adults about how precious life is - theirs and others’. We all have a part in reducing gun violence by making sure guns are properly handled and teaching children and young adults to handle conflict without violence.