
Alexis' story



BE
SMART

A conversation about kids, guns, and safety

MOMS 
DEMAND
ACTION
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

[BeSMARTforKids.org](https://www.BeSMARTforKids.org)

Program made possible with funds from Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund

WHY AM I HERE?

THE HEADLINES CAN MAKE YOU FEEL HELPLESS.
BUT YOU'RE NOT.



AMERICAN KIDS ARE

11X MORE LIKELY

TO DIE FROM GUN VIOLENCE THAN CHILDREN
IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

*Police: Boy, 13, commits
Suicide at Mich. School*

**5-Year-Old Shoots 6-
Year-Old Brother While
Playing With Gun**

*Vigil Held for 13-Year-Old
Who Died From Self-
Inflicted Gunshot Wound*

**2-Year-Old Dies After
Accidentally Shooting
Self in Head**

**Yuma Reeling After
Accidental Shooting Death
of High School Student**

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Be

S

M

A

R

T

S M A R T

Secure guns in your homes and vehicles



Secure guns in your homes and vehicles



Keep guns locked,
unloaded and stored
separately from
ammunition.

Jeremiah's story





70 PERCENT

OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 10 KNOW
WHERE THEIR PARENTS STORE THEIR GUNS.

S **M** **A** **R** **T**

Model responsible behavior

SMART

Model responsible behavior



Are your security concerns consistent with local crime rates?



Do all adults in the home support having a gun?



Will other adults join in firearms training?



What precautions will you take to safeguard children?



Do risk factors exist?

SMART

Model responsible behavior



Always keep your gun pointed
in a safe direction.



Treat every firearm as if it is
loaded.



Be sure of your target and
what's beyond it.



Don't rely on your gun's "safety."

Noah's story





1.7 MILLION KIDS

LIVE IN HOMES WITH GUNS THAT
ARE BOTH LOADED AND UNLOCKED.

S M A R T

Ask about unsecured guns in other homes

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Ask about unsecured guns in other homes



Make it part of a discussion.



Volunteer information about your home.



Use technology.



Talk to family and caregivers.

Mikey's story



**“IN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16, THE PRESENCE AND
AVAILABILITY OF A GUN IN THE HOME IS A**

MORE SIGNIFICANT RISK FACTOR

**THAN PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS, PROBABLY BECAUSE
SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
OF THIS AGE IS OFTEN IMPULSIVE.”**

– DR. DAVID BRENT, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



**FIREARMS ARE THE MOST LETHAL METHOD
FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS, RESULTING IN DEATH**

85% OF THE TIME.

S M A **R** T

Recognize the risks of teen suicide

SMART

Recognize the risks of teen suicide



Change in mood or behavior



Feeling hopeless, ashamed, or desperate



Talking about wanting to kill themselves or saying “you’ll be better off”



Increase in aggression

Missy's story



SMART

Tell your peers to be SMART

SMART

Tell your peers to be SMART



Talk to your friends
and family.



Volunteer to lead a
SMART presentation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Be



Secure guns
in your homes
and vehicles



Model
responsible
behavior



Ask about
unsecured
guns in other
homes



Recognize
the risks
of teen suicide



Tell your peers
to be SMART



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

BeSMARTforKids.org

References

Slide 5: "American kids are 11 times more likely to die from gun violence than children in other high-income countries." Richardson, Erin G., and David Hemenway, "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003," *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, January 2011.

Slide 6: Nearly 100 children are killed in unintentional shootings; over 400 killed in suicides. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Fatal Injury Reports, National and Regional, 1999-2013," available at: <http://1.usa.gov/1ni8EV8>

Slide 11: 70% of children under age 10 knew where their parents stored their guns. Baxley, Frances and Matthew Miller. "Parental Misconceptions about Children and Firearms." *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine* 160, no 5 (2006): 542 – 547.

Slides 13 and 14 information: National Shooting Sports Foundation, "Project ChildSafe," 2015 available at <http://www.projectchildsafe.org>.

Slide 16: "1.7 million children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked." Everytown for Gun Safety, "Innocents Lost," 2014 available at <http://everytown.org/article/innocents-lost/>

Slide 20: Quote from Dr. David Brent. Watson Seupel, Celia. "Blocking the Paths to Suicide," *New York Times*, March 9, 2015. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/10/health/blocking-the-paths-to-suicide.html?_r=0

Slide 21: "Firearms are the most lethal method for suicide attempts, resulting in death 85% of the time." Vyrostek SB, Annest JL, Ryan GW. "Surveillance for fatal and nonfatal injuries—United States, 2001," available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5307a1.htm>.

Photography:

Slide 4: (Source: Nicholas Boos, Flickr)

Slide 8: (Source: mliu92, Flickr)