

**PLAY IT  
SAFE,  
GEORGIA!**

For Parents and Caregivers

# FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION

## Georgia Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



### Why We CARE

**#1** Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens, **killing 4,357** young people (nationally).

**4X** Almost **fourfold increase** in firearm fatalities in children and teens under 18 in Georgia (from 2011 to 2021).

**#2** **Georgia is second in the nation** for unintentional shootings of a gun by children. **Children as young as 2** years old have pulled the trigger.

**8/WEEK** Children under 12 years old killed by guns (in 2020). **EVERY. SINGLE. WEEK.**

**50%** Of Georgians have a gun in their home. **1 in 3** children live in homes with guns.



### How to PLAY IT SAFE

Follow these rules to **Play it TRIPLE Safe** by keeping firearms

- 1** **Unloaded.**
- 2** **Locked up in a combination lockbox, biometric lockbox, or gun safe.**
- 3** **Locked up *separate from* ammunition.**



#### When To Seek Help

- If your child is injured with a firearm **call 911 immediately.**
- If your child states they would like to harm themselves or others, **call 911** or **Georgia Crisis & Access Line (GCAL)** at **800-715-4225**, available 24/7.
- Call **988 National Suicide Hotline**



Identify the presence of firearms in other homes—play dates, grandparents, babysitters—with this suggested script:

Annie is looking forward to her playdate with Zach. Remember, she is allergic to peanuts!

Got it! 👍

I always ask about firearms wherever my kids go. Do you have a gun in the house?

Yes, we do. It's locked in a safe and the ammunition is locked in a different safe.

Perfect! Thank you. See you at 3!



**IMPORTANT  
REMINDER**

**Hiding a gun is not enough.** Kids are naturally curious. Studies show that they usually know where guns are kept.

#### PLAY IT SAFE

with poison prevention, safe sleep, drowning, and more in the **new Georgia AAP Toolkit**—[gaaap.org/play-it-safe/](http://gaaap.org/play-it-safe/).