

# Safe Gun Storage

A Message from Mary Bridge  
Center for Childhood Safety



**If you have a gun  
in your home:**

- Keep it unloaded, out of reach, and locked – using a gun safe, lock box, or trigger lock.
- Lock up ammunition in a separate location.
- Hide the keys to lock boxes.
- Teach children to stay away from guns, but do not rely on them to be able to do that.
- When a gun is unlocked, keep it in your sight at all times.

**MultiCare** 

**Mary Bridge Children's Hospital  
& Health Center**



Center for Childhood Safety

#### **FACTS:**

- In the United States, nearly 40% of homes with children have a gun.
- Children as young as 3 years old may be strong enough to pull a trigger on a gun.
- Every other day, on average, a child under age 10 is killed or disabled by a gun in the United States.
- Every year, about 30 children are hospitalized for a firearm injury in Washington State, and 19 are killed.

#### **WHEN YOUR CHILD VISITS ANOTHER HOME:**

- Don't be afraid to ask – “Are there guns in the home? How are they stored?”
- Talk to grandparents and the parents of your child's friends about safe gun storage.
- Consider this to be a basic child safety issue – like safe storage of medicine and household poisons, or using a car seat or bike helmet.

#### **IF YOU HAVE A GUN THAT YOU NO LONGER WANT:**

- Consult with local law enforcement on how to safely dispose of guns in your community.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**

[multicare.org/childhoodsafety](http://multicare.org/childhoodsafety)  
[lokitup.org](http://lokitup.org)

**MultiCare**   
**Mary Bridge Children's Hospital  
& Health Center** 

⋮ Center for Childhood Safety