Each year in the United States, nearly 260 children aged 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. Nearly 600 more die by suicide with a gun each year. We have the power to prevent tragedies like these from happening. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America has developed the SMART framework to help parents and adults prevent child gun deaths and injuries.

**DID YOU KNOW**

4.6 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.

Nearly 260 children 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else—sometimes fatally.

Every year, nearly 600 children 17 and under die by suicide with a gun.

**SAFETY IS ALWAYS AN ADULT RESPONSIBILITY**

Kids will be kids. They won’t always make smart decisions about their own safety. Always assume that curious or impulsive kids may find and touch an unsecured gun, even if they’ve been told not to. If a child handles a gun, a bad decision can quickly become a fatal one. SMART adults protect kids by storing guns locked, unloaded and separately from ammunition, and by making sure children are never in the presence of unsecured guns.

**OUR STORY**

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America launched the Be SMART campaign to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. The campaign focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage. Moms Demand Action volunteers encourage parents and caretakers to “Be SMART” and take these five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children:

- Secure all guns in your home and vehicles; 
- Model responsible behavior around guns; 
- Ask about unsecured guns in other homes; 
- Recognize the role of guns in suicide; 
- Tell your peers to be SMART.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

It’s simple. Spread the Be SMART message. Talk to your friends and family about the importance of responsible gun storage, and get the word out in your community. Volunteers all over the country are available to deliver a 20-minute presentation entitled “Be SMART: A conversation about kids, guns and safety” to local groups and organizations.

Visit BeSMARTforKids.org to learn more and get involved. When it comes to kids’ safety, we’re all in this together!

For more information or to get involved visit www.momsdemandaction.org

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/BeSMARTforKids.org or on Twitter@MomsDemand

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**Be Smart is a program of Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action**