

# Safe Gun Storage

Asking Saves Kids (ASK)

<http://askingsaveskids.org/>

# Sonia & Markie



Markie is one of 18,000 children shot each year. He died.

Nationally, we lose more children to guns than to cancer.

Sonia left him at his babysitter's house. The babysitter's 11 yr old son found the homeowner's gun, and, startled when Markie opened the bedroom door, accidentally shot him.

Sonia is now a part of the National Ask Campaign

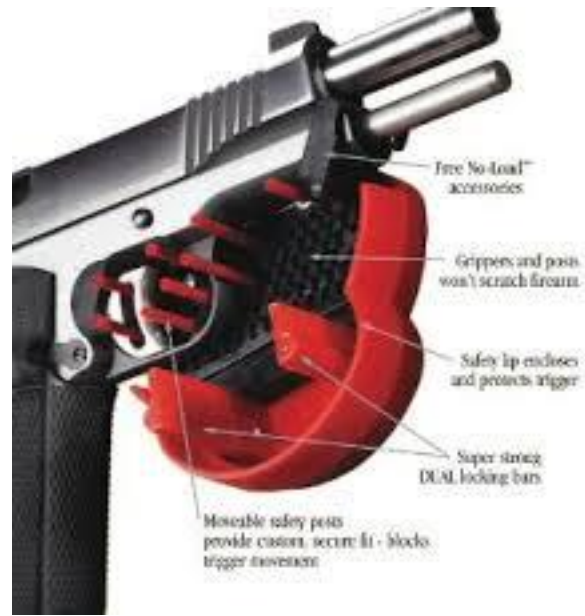
She says: ask "Is there is an unlocked gun where my child plays?"

Asking saves lives.

# Safe Gun Storage: California DOJ

- Store all guns unloaded
- Lock them with a firearms safety device (trigger or cable lock)
  - Effective January 1, 2002, no firearm may be sold, transferred, or manufactured within California unless that firearm is accompanied by a DOJ-approved firearms safety device.
- Store them in a locked container. Keep the key or combination away from children
- Ammunition should be stored in a location separate from the gun.

# Safe Storage



This is a California-approved Firearm Safety Device that meets the requirements of Penal Code section 23855 and the regulations issued thereunder.



## Also, there is a law

CA DOJ: The gun owner may be guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony if they keep a loaded firearm within any premises that are under their custody or control and a child under 18 years of age obtains and uses it, resulting in injury or death, or carries it to a public place

# Why have a gun at all?

Statistically, people are safer without a gun

- A gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used in a homicide, suicide or unintentional shooting than to kill in self- defense.
- Keeping a firearm in the home increases the risk of suicide by a factor of 3 to 5.
- The risk of homicide in the home is three times greater in households with guns

# But fear often dominates statistics

## Ways to protect your home:

### Lion

- Scares burglars
- Makes me look important
- Impresses the neighbors
- Is cute when young
- Danger to me & others

### Gun

- Scares burglars
- Makes me look important
- Impresses the neighbors
- Does not need to be fed
- Danger to me & others

It would be better if your  
neighbors had lions to protect  
them, then you wouldn't have to  
ask



# But you do

- A recent study on adult firearm storage practices in U.S. homes found that over 1.69 million children and youth under age 18 are living in homes with loaded and unlocked firearms
- **Eighty-eight percent** of the children injured or killed in unintentional shootings are shot in their own homes or in the homes of relatives or friends



“IS THERE AN UNLOCKED GUN  
WHERE MY CHILD PLAYS?”

**ASK**  
ASKINGSAVESKIDS  
[WWW.ASKINGSAVESKIDS.ORG](http://WWW.ASKINGSAVESKIDS.ORG)

## How Do You ASK?

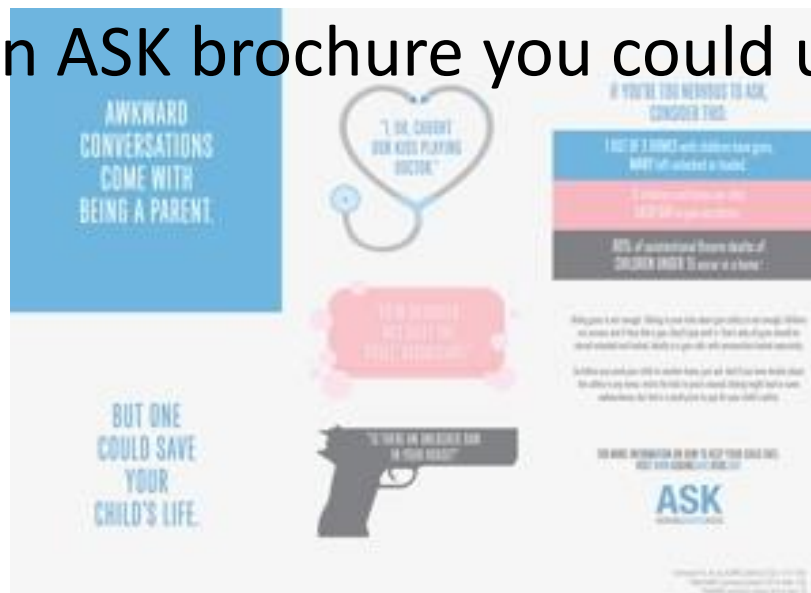
- Don't be confrontational
- Start by asking other questions
- Work through groups
- Use the facts

# Don't be confrontational

Present your concerns in a respectful manner.

You are simply trying to make sure your child is in a safe environment. It is acceptable to ask about substances your child is allergic to. This is a similar ask.

There is an ASK brochure you could use to open the dialogue.



# Start by asking other questions

Include questions with other things you would discuss before sending your child to another's house:

- ✓ Seat belts
- ✓ Animals
- ✓ Allergies
- ✓ Guns

# Work through groups

Introduce the ASK concept through a group or community effort such as a religious group or PTA

## Use the Facts

Over 1/3 of households with children have a gun, many of which are left unlocked and loaded. That is why you are asking, you just want your child to be safe.

# Just Ask

- Awkward conversations come with being a parent
  - *“I, uh, caught our kids playing doctor”*
  - *“Your son seems to really like to draw on walls”*
  - *“Is there an unlocked gun in your house?”*
- Just ask, it could save a life

# Resources

ASK Web Site

<http://askingsaveskids.org/partner-resources>

CA Department of Justice Safety Tips

<https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips>

CA DOJ Approved Safety Devices

<https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/fsdcertlist>