



# How do I talk with my kids about guns if we don't own guns?



## BEFORE THE TALK, THINK ABOUT...

### Your child's age & who your child is



Toddler & Preschool:

Imagination is everything. Curious. Short attention span. Learns by touching objects.

Elementary school:

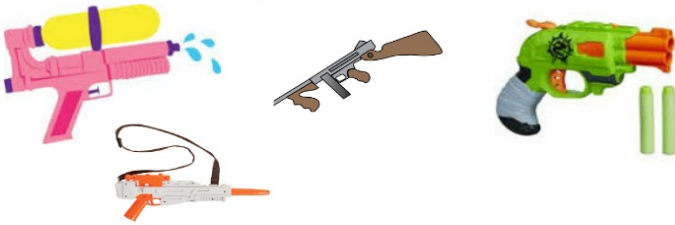
Understands more than 1 way to solve a problem, can see others' point of view

Middle school:

Improving critical thinking skills & logical thought, can think about hypothetical situations ("what if?")

Does child act without thinking? Easily hyper? Hard time listening or keeping still? Often finds trouble?

### Your child's exposures to guns, real or toys



### Your comfort with the subject

Kids can sense if you are worried about something. Talk calmly and in matter-of-fact tone

## FIND A TIME TO TALK

Watching TV shows about guns, hunting, police

During active play or if child turns something into a gun

Arcades or carnival games

Play with water or nerf guns



## TALKING POINTS

While we don't have any guns or weapons, other families may have them in their home for work, hunting or other reasons.

If you see or find a gun at someone's house, do not touch it. Walk away. TELL AN ADULT.

Never point any gun (real or toy) at anyone

Assume guns are loaded and leave it alone. TELL AN ADULT.

It is hard to know if a gun or weapon is a toy or real. Even if your friend says it is ok, tell them "No" and TELL AN ADULT.

## REMEMBER...

Use child friendly language

Let your child ask questions

Role play with your child what to do or say if a friend finds a gun

Talk to your child's doctor if you have questions.

