

# BE SMART

Be SMART is a program developed by Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund to bring together parents and all adults concerned about kids, guns, and safety.

[BeSMARTforkids.org](https://BeSMARTforkids.org)

# Welcome!

**WCPSS Board of Education Meeting**

February 7, 2023

**Presenter:**

Melanie Mottershead





①

We all want kids to grow up happy and healthy.

②

We each have the right to make responsible decisions about how to protect our homes, families, and communities—including whether or not to have a gun in our home.

③

If we can prevent even one child gun death or injury, it's our responsibility to do so.



**Be SMART is a program to  
bring together all adults  
concerned about kids, guns,  
and safety.**

# Resources Contact Info

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## **National Suicide Prevention Line**

1 (800) 273-8255  
(24 hours/day)

## **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**

can be reached by calling or texting  
988, or chatting on  
<http://988lifeline.org>



## **Trevor Project**

***The LGBTQIA+ Youth Suicide  
Prevention Line***

Trevor Lifeline  
1 (866) 488-7386

Text "Home" to 741-741  
From anywhere in the United States,  
anytime, about any type of crisis



**Firearms are the LEADING  
CAUSE of death for CHILDREN  
in the US.**



**In incidents of gunfire on school grounds, up to 76% of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the gun(s) they used from their home or the home of relatives or friends.**

# A North Carolina Problem

## *Benson, NC*

2-year old finds loaded gun in dad's truck, kills himself

*October 16, 2022*

## *Rocky Mount, NC*

2 youths injured in shooting after gun improperly stored in home

*February 19, 2022*

## *Cary, NC*

Loaded gun brought to Cary High School and fired into a toilet prompting code red lockdown. Two juveniles charged.

*October 12, 2022*

## *Raleigh, NC*

15-year old shooter kills 5 including his own 16 year old brother in Raleigh, NC

*October 13, 2022*

# BE SMART

S

## Secure

All guns in your  
home and vehicle

M

## Model

Responsible  
behavior

A

## Ask

Unsecured guns  
in other homes

R

## Recognize

The role of guns in  
suicide

T

## Tell

Your peers to  
Be SMART



## Secure guns in homes and vehicles

- 13 million households with children contain at least one gun
- One study found that the majority of children in gun-owning households knew where the gun was stored
- Store guns locked up and inaccessible to kids
- Hiding a gun is not “securing” a gun



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### Full-Size Gun Safe

Storage of multiple guns in one place.  
Biometric lock more secure than key  
or passcode.

**\$200-\$2,000**

- Prevents access by children
- Prevents access by unauthorized users
- Prevents theft (if secured to a structure in home)
- Enables fast access



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### Lock Box/Locker

Smaller and lighter than safe.  
Biometric lock more secure than key  
or passcode.

**\$25-\$350**

- Prevents access by children
- Prevents access by unauthorized users
- Provides secure vehicle storage
- Enables fast access



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### Console/Vehicle Gun Safe

For storage in a vehicle. Biometric lock  
more secure than key or passcode.

**\$50-\$350**

- Prevents access by children
- Prevents access by unauthorized users
- Prevents theft (if secured to a structure in car)
- Provides secure vehicle storage
- Enables fast access



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### Gun Case

For home or in-transit storage of one firearm. Uses external lock

**\$10-\$150**

Prevents access by children  
Prevents access by unauthorized users  
Enables fast access



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### Trigger Lock

Locks trigger of single weapon. Never use with loaded gun. May be dismantled with minimal tools and skills, so not as effective with older children and teens.

**\$10-\$75**

Prevents use by small children  
Enables fast access



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### Cable Lock

Cable runs through action of single weapon to prevent firing. Ammunition must be removed for lock use. May be dismantled with minimal tools and skills, so not as effective with older children and teens.

**\$0 -\$50**

Prevents use by small children  
Enables fast access  
\*Often provided free with firearm purchase.



## Model Responsible Behavior

- It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns
- Make it a part of the normal safety conversation you have with your children
- Keep the language simple; for example: "If you see a gun, don't touch it. Tell an adult right away."

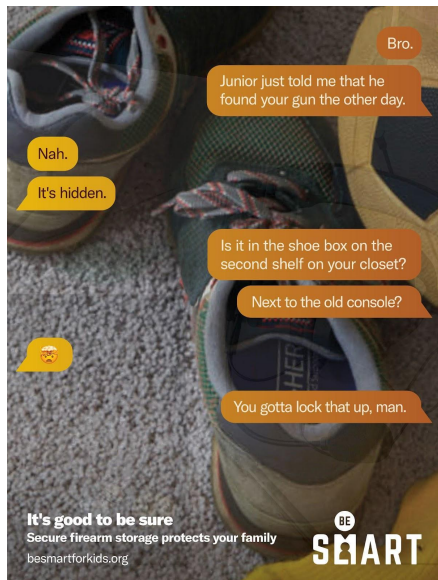


A

## Ask About Unsecured Guns in Other Homes

- Make it a part of your general safety conversation you have when sending your child to any home
- Try email or text
- 4.6 million U.S. children live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun

# Be SMART Campaign



Bro.

Junior just told me that he found your gun the other day.

Nah.

It's hidden.

Is it in the shoe box on the second shelf on your closet?

Next to the old console?

You gotta lock that up, man.

**It's good to be sure**  
Secure firearm storage protects your family  
besmartforkids.org

**BE SMART**



Hey, how's Jayden?  
He seems really down lately.

I'm worried about him...

He just comes home and shuts himself in his room.

He won't talk to me.

I'll talk to him.

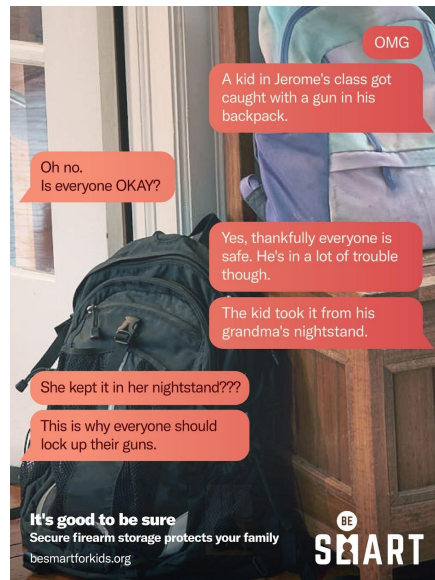
Thanks so much. He always listens to you.

Hey, I spoke with Jayden.  
He mentioned your firearm.

Do you have it locked up?

**It's good to be sure**  
Secure firearm storage protects your family  
besmartforkids.org

**BE SMART**



OMG

A kid in Jerome's class got caught with a gun in his backpack.

Oh no.  
Is everyone OKAY?

Yes, thankfully everyone is safe. He's in a lot of trouble though.

The kid took it from his grandma's nightstand.

She kept it in her nightstand???

This is why everyone should lock up their guns.

**It's good to be sure**  
Secure firearm storage protects your family  
besmartforkids.org

**BE SMART**



Bro.

Junior me acaba de decir que encontró tu pistola el otro día.

Noooo.  
Está escondida.

¿Está en una caja de zapatos en la segunda tablilla de tu closet?

¿Al lado de la consola vieja?

Tienes que guardar eso bajo llave, socio.

**Es bueno estar seguro**  
Mantener las armas bajo llave protege a tu familia  
besmartforkids.org

**BE SMART**



# R

## Recognize the Role of Guns in Suicide

- Most people who attempt suicide do not die—unless they use a gun
- 90% of suicide attempts with a gun result in death—a much higher fatality rate than any other means of self harm
- This contributes to the fact that 41 percent of child suicides involve a gun

**A survey of High School students found that 20% had seriously considered attempting suicide within the last year.**

**And one study showed that 41% of adolescents in gun-owning households report having “easy-access” to the guns in their home.**

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<http://988lifeline.org>

## **Gun Violence Survivor Network**

<http://momentsthatsurvive.org>

## **Trevor Project**

***The LGBTQIA+ Youth Suicide  
Prevention Line***

Trevor Lifeline

1 (866) 488-7386

Text "Home" to 741-741

From anywhere in the United States,  
anytime, about any type of crisis





# Tell Everyone You Know to Be SMART

- Your voice, and all voices are critical. How will you commit to Be SMART today?
- Consider at least THREE people that you want to share the Be SMART message with right now
- Share Be SMART within your community
- Text SMART to 64433 to learn more

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# Thank You!

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## Contact Info

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**Be SMART Volunteer**

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**Secure gun storage  
can save lives.**

**TEXT SMART  
TO 644-33**

**to learn how  
you can help.**



[BeSMARTforKids.org](https://BeSMARTforKids.org)

## Speaker's Endnotes

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. Data from 2019. Children and teenagers aged 1 to 17, Black defined as non-Hispanic, number of deaths by known intent (homicide, suicide, unintentional deaths). Age 0 to 1 calculated separately by the CDC because leading causes of death for newborns and infants are specific to the age group.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2015 to 2019. Analysis includes children aged 0 to 17, homicide includes legal intervention.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2015 to 2019. Analysis includes children aged 0 to 17, homicide includes legal intervention.
4. Azrael D, Cohen J, Salhi C, Miller M. Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national survey. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2018; 95(3): 295-304. Study defined children as under the age of 18.
5. Fowler KA, Dahlberg LL, Haileyesus T, Gutierrez C, Bacon S. Childhood Firearm Injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2017; 140(1).
6. Guohua L, et al. Factors Associated with the Intent of Firearm-Related Injuries in Pediatric Trauma Patients. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Med*. 1996; 1160, 1162.
7. Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2005; 293(6): 707-714.
8. Hemenway D, Azrael D, Miller M. Whose guns are stolen? The epidemiology of gun theft victims. *Journal of Injury Epidemiology*. 2017; 4(1): 11.
9. Stolzenberg L, D'Alessia SJ. Gun availability and violent crime: New evidence from National Incident-Based Reporting System. *Social Forces*. 2000; 78(4): 1461-1482.
10. Everytown analyzed data obtained by *The Trace* from 1,054 law enforcement agencies in 36 states and Washington, DC. For the yearly comparison, Everytown narrowed the analysis of local data obtained by *The Trace* to 39 cities in 16 states based on the availability of data for all years between 2006 and 2015. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2UmQhUX>.
11. Baxley F, Miller M. Parental misperceptions about children and firearms. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. 2006; 160(5): 542-547.
12. Hardy, MS. Teaching firearm safety to children: Failure of a program. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*. 2002; 23, 71-76.
13. Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2005; 293(6): 707-714.