

FIRST GRADE

FIREARMS SAFETY

Lesson Plan & Teacher Guide

THEME: Learning the Safety Steps and Identifying Trusted Adults (Prevention)

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	MATERIALS	TIME
PART 1: Review of the Safety Steps	Students review and recite the safety steps: Treat every gun as real and loaded. NO! Don't touch! Tell an adult. Students practice saying the steps in order to reinforce that some real guns look fake and some fake guns look real and to help them feel confident about what to do if they ever see something that looks like a gun. Students complete the Coloring Sheet to reinforce learning.	Safety Steps Poster; Safety Steps Slide Deck (optional); Firearms Identification Worksheet; Coloring Sheet (optional)	10-15 minutes
PART 2: Storytime: "The Attic Discovery"	Teacher reads "The Attic Discovery" Story. Students discuss what the characters in the story did, why the girl didn't touch the item and whom she told. All responses connect back to the safety steps.	"The Attic Discovery" Story	15-20 minutes
PART 3: Trusted Adults & Community Helpers	Students learn about and work to identify trusted adults at home, at school and in the community (e.g., police officers, teachers, bus drivers, parents, principals, nurses, etc.). Students discuss why adults keep them safe and whom they should tell if they see something that looks unsafe, including a gun. Teacher notes that trusted adults help keep kids safe by ensuring that certain items, such as guns, are locked up and put where kids cannot get to them.	Community Helpers Worksheet	10-15 minutes
PART 4: Introduction to Safe Storage: Maze Activity	Students learn the basics of safe firearms storage, including how responsible adults must keep guns away from children. Students complete a Maze Worksheet to reinforce the concept of safe storage.	Maze Worksheet	5-10 minutes
PART 5: Safety Pledge	Students read and repeat the Safety Pledge with the class, committing to follow the safety steps and tell a trusted adult if they ever see something unsafe.	Safety Pledge	5 minutes

PART 1

Review of the Safety Steps (10-15 minutes)

NEED: Safety Steps Poster; Safety Steps Slide Deck (optional); Firearms Identification Worksheet; Coloring Sheet (optional)

TEACHER: Good morning, everyone!

In Kindergarten, we learned how to be “Safety Superheroes.” Today we’re going to refresh those skills so that we always know exactly what to do if we ever see a firearm or anything that looks like a firearm.

DISPLAY the **Safety Steps Poster** (with optional **Safety Steps Slide Deck**).

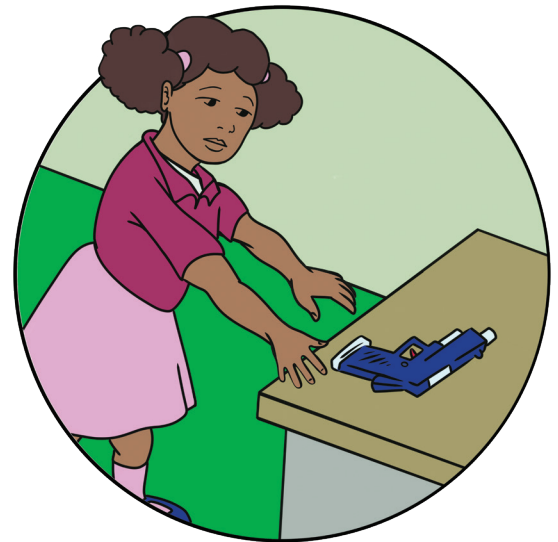
REINFORCE THE SAFETY STEPS:

- 1** **Treat every gun as real and loaded.** Even if a firearm looks like a toy or looks old, we always treat it as real and ready to fire.
- 2** **NO! Don’t touch!** We never, ever touch a firearm. Not even for a second.
- 3** **Tell an adult.** We find a trusted grown-up right away and tell him or her exactly what we saw.

ACTIVITY: Let’s practice together! When I point to the **Safety Steps Poster**, I want everyone to say the steps with me: “Treat every gun as real and loaded. NO! Don’t touch! Tell an adult!” Great job!

Use the **Firearms Identification Worksheet** to circle any items on the page that are firearms and cross out any items on the page that are not.

We also have an optional **Coloring Sheet** that helps remind us of the three safety steps. You may work on it here or at home.



PART 2

Storytime: “The Attic Discovery” (15-20 minutes)

NEED: “The Attic Discovery” Story

TEACHER: Let’s revisit a story about a girl named Zara. She made a very interesting discovery in the attic of her home and had to make a very important choice.

- Read “**The Attic Discovery**” Story to the class.
- Sample discussion questions:
 - **What did Zara see under the blanket?**
Answer: She saw something that looked like a firearm.
 - **Zara’s dad told her two very important things about firearms. Do you remember what he said?**
Answer: He said that old guns can still fire and that real guns can sometimes look like toys.
 - **Even though the object turned out to be just an old video-game controller, why was Zara proud of herself?**
Answer: Because she did the right thing. She followed the safety steps and stayed safe.

PART 3

Identifying Trusted Adults & Community Helpers (10-15 minutes)

NEED: Community Helpers Worksheet

TEACHER: In the story, Zara knew her parents were trusted adults and that she could tell them what she had found in the attic. We need to know which adults in our community are there to help us stay safe if we find something we shouldn’t touch.

ACTIVITY: Distribute the **Community Helpers Worksheet**.

DISCUSSION: Look at the people on your worksheet. Some of these helpers might carry firearms for their jobs. I want you to circle the people on your paper who might carry a firearm for work.

- **Guide students to circle:** Police Officer, Armed Forces Servicemember and Game Warden
- **Explain:** These trusted adults are trained to handle tools such as firearms safely. If you see their firearms, you should still follow the rules: Don’t touch, and tell a trusted adult!

PART 4

Introduction to Safe Storage: Maze Activity (5-10 minutes)

NEED: Maze Worksheet; Maze Solution

TEACHER: We know that kids should never touch firearms. To keep everyone safe, adults have special places where they keep these tools. One of those places is usually a heavy, locked box called a “safe.”

ACTIVITY: Distribute the **Maze Worksheet**.

DISCUSSION: On your paper, you'll see a firearm at the start of the maze. Your job is to lead that firearm through the maze all the way to the safe in the middle. This is to remind us that this is where adults keep firearms so that they stay locked away and out of reach of children.

Teacher note: Use the provided **Maze Solution** to help any students who get stuck.

PART 5

The Safety Pledge (5 minutes)

NEED: Safety Pledge

TEACHER: To end our lesson, let's stand up and take our **Safety Pledge** to show that we're committed to being smart and safe. We're going to say it together and then sign it.

RECITE:

I know that guns are not toys.

I will remember and use the safety steps:

- 1 **Treat every gun as real and loaded.**
- 2 **NO! Don't touch!**
- 3 **Tell an adult.**

If I ever see a gun or something that looks like one, I will tell a trusted grown-up.

I pledge to treat all firearms with caution and respect.

I will choose to be safe!

TEACHER: Great job, Safety Superheroes! You can take your worksheets and your pledges home to show your families what you learned today.

***LANGUAGE NOTE:** In this guide, the terms “gun” and “firearm” are used interchangeably. While “firearm” is often the more technical or legal term, “gun” is commonly used in everyday language. Both terms refer to the same category of devices, and the choice of wording is intended to support clarity, consistency and accessibility for learners.

**If you find a gun,
DON'T TOUCH IT!
Find and tell a
trusted adult
right away.**



**WE'D LOVE
TO HEAR YOUR
THOUGHTS!**

Scan the code to
take a brief survey.

FIREARMS SAFETY

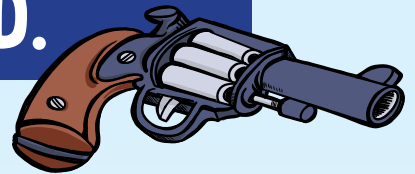
FOR KIDS

LEARN TO STAY SAFE!

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A FIREARM:

1 TREAT EVERY GUN AS REAL AND LOADED.

It's **NOT** a toy!



NO! DON'T TOUCH!

Leave it alone!

2

3 TELL AN ADULT.

Find a trusted grown-up fast!

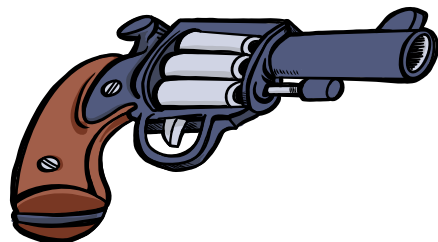
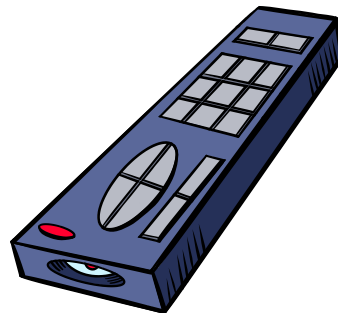
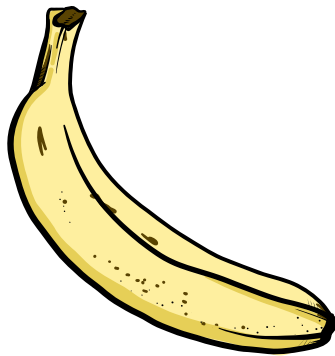
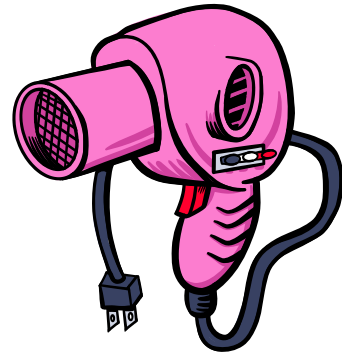
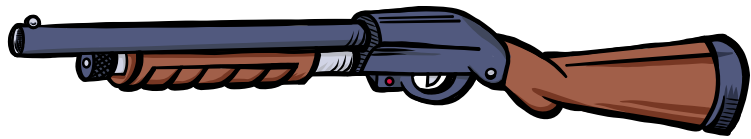


NEVER PLAY WITH GUNS!

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CAN YOU IDENTIFY A FIREARM?

Circle the real firearms. Cross out
the items that are not firearms.



**If you find a gun, don't touch it!
Find and tell a trusted adult right away.**



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“THE ATTIC DISCOVERY”

Zara loved rainy Sunday afternoons. It was the perfect time to rest, read or explore. One day, when thunder boomed outside and the house felt extra cozy, Zara’s mom asked her to go up to the attic and bring down an old photo album.

Zara had never gone up there alone. The ladder’s wooden steps creaked under her feet, and the dusty light bulb flickered above her. Stacks of boxes sat in scattered piles, sealed with old, brown tape and handwritten labels.

As she reached for a clear container filled with photos and albums, she spotted something poking out from under a thick blue blanket. It was a black object with lime green parts and was shaped like a gun.

Zara froze.

Her heart thumped hard, and she whispered to herself, “Is that ... *real*?”

Zara knew that if something even *looked* like a firearm, you had to treat it carefully.

She slowly stepped backward. She didn’t touch it. She didn’t get closer. She didn’t even try to peek under the blanket. Zara knew the safety steps she’d heard in videos and posters at school: Never touch a gun, even if you don’t know whether it’s real.

She remembered that her dad had told her that old guns could still fire. He also said that fake guns could fool people into thinking they were real. And sometimes, real guns looked like harmless toys.

Zara hurried down the steps. “Mom! Dad!” she called. “I found something in the attic, and you need to see it. Please come with me!”

Her dad followed her back up the ladder and carefully moved the blanket aside. Then he smiled. “Zara,” he said, lifting the object gently, “this isn’t a gun at all. It’s a controller from an old video-game system I used to have. They made some of them shaped like real guns so that you could point them at the TV to play.”

Zara stared at the object in her father’s hand. It really did look like a real gun: shiny and dark and just the right size for a kid’s hand. It clearly had a trigger — a bright green one — and lots of other weird buttons and levers.

“But you did *exactly* the right thing,” her mom said, peeking up into the attic from the ladder. “You treated it like it was real, and you came straight to us.”

Her dad nodded. "That's what keeps people safe," he said. "Sometimes kids find something at a park or in a garage that looks like a firearm. Sometimes grown-ups find things they aren't sure about. But the rules are the same for everyone: Treat it as a real gun – a real gun that may be loaded. Don't touch it, and tell a trusted adult."

Zara felt herself breathe easier as she let a satisfied smile stretch across her lips. She realized that she had not handled the gun, but she HAD handled the situation just the way she should have: calmly, carefully and safely.

While her dad packed away the old video-game blaster, Zara carried the photo album downstairs to her mom, feeling proud of the choices she had made.

She settled into a comfortable spot on the couch and picked up her own game controller. As the rain pattered on the windows, she kept thinking about the strange, almost-scary moment in the attic. She now understood why the safety steps mattered so much. It was important to be careful, even if something looked harmless. She hadn't touched it. She'd gone straight to an adult. And that decision had made all the difference.

With a quiet breath and a small smile, Zara started her game, feeling calm and certain that she had done exactly the right thing.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did Zara go up to the attic?**
Because her mom asked her to bring down an old photo album.
- 2 How did Zara feel when she first climbed into the attic?**
She felt a little nervous. The ladder creaked, and the attic was dusty and dim.
- 3 What did Zara see sticking out from under the blue blanket?**
She saw something that looked like a gun.
- 4 What did Zara do when she saw something that looked like a firearm?**
She stopped, didn't touch it and called for her parents.
- 5 Which safety steps did Zara remember?**
All of them. Treat every gun as real and loaded. And if you see a gun or something that looks like one, don't touch it. Tell an adult right away.
- 6 Who did Zara call for help?**
She called for her mom and dad.

- 7** What did Zara’s dad find when he lifted the blanket?
The object wasn’t a gun at all; it was an old video-game controller shaped like one.
- 8** Why was Zara’s mom proud of her?
Because Zara stayed safe, didn’t touch the object and told an adult immediately.
- 9** What lesson did Zara learn from this experience?
Even when something looks harmless, you must be careful and follow the safety steps.
- 10** How did Zara feel at the end of the story?
She felt proud and relieved that she had made the safe choice.

YES/NO or THUMBS-UP QUESTIONS

- 11** Should Zara have picked up the object to check what it was? **NO**
- 12** Do some toys or controllers look like real guns? **YES**
- 13** Was it safe for Zara to ask an adult for help? **YES**
- 14** Did Zara follow the firearms safety steps? **YES**
- 15** Is it important to be careful even if you’re not sure something is real? **YES**

OPEN-ENDED, DISCUSSION-FRIENDLY QUESTIONS

- 16** How do you think Zara felt when she thought she had found a gun?
She was startled and scared and wanted to stay safe.
- 17** Why is it important to treat anything that looks like a gun as though it were real?
Because you can’t always tell if something is dangerous just by looking at it.
- 18** What did Zara do that made the situation safer?
She didn’t touch the object, moved away and called for a trusted adult.
- 19** What could have happened if Zara had grabbed the object right away?
She could have been unsafe because she didn’t know if it was a real gun.
- 20** What should YOU do if you find something that looks like a gun?
Stay away, don’t touch it and tell a trusted grown-up.

COMMUNITY HELPERS WHO MAY CARRY A GUN

Circle the people who may carry
a firearm as part of their jobs.



COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOT



POSTAL WORKER



**ARMED FORCES
SERVICEMEMBER**



BIOLOGIST



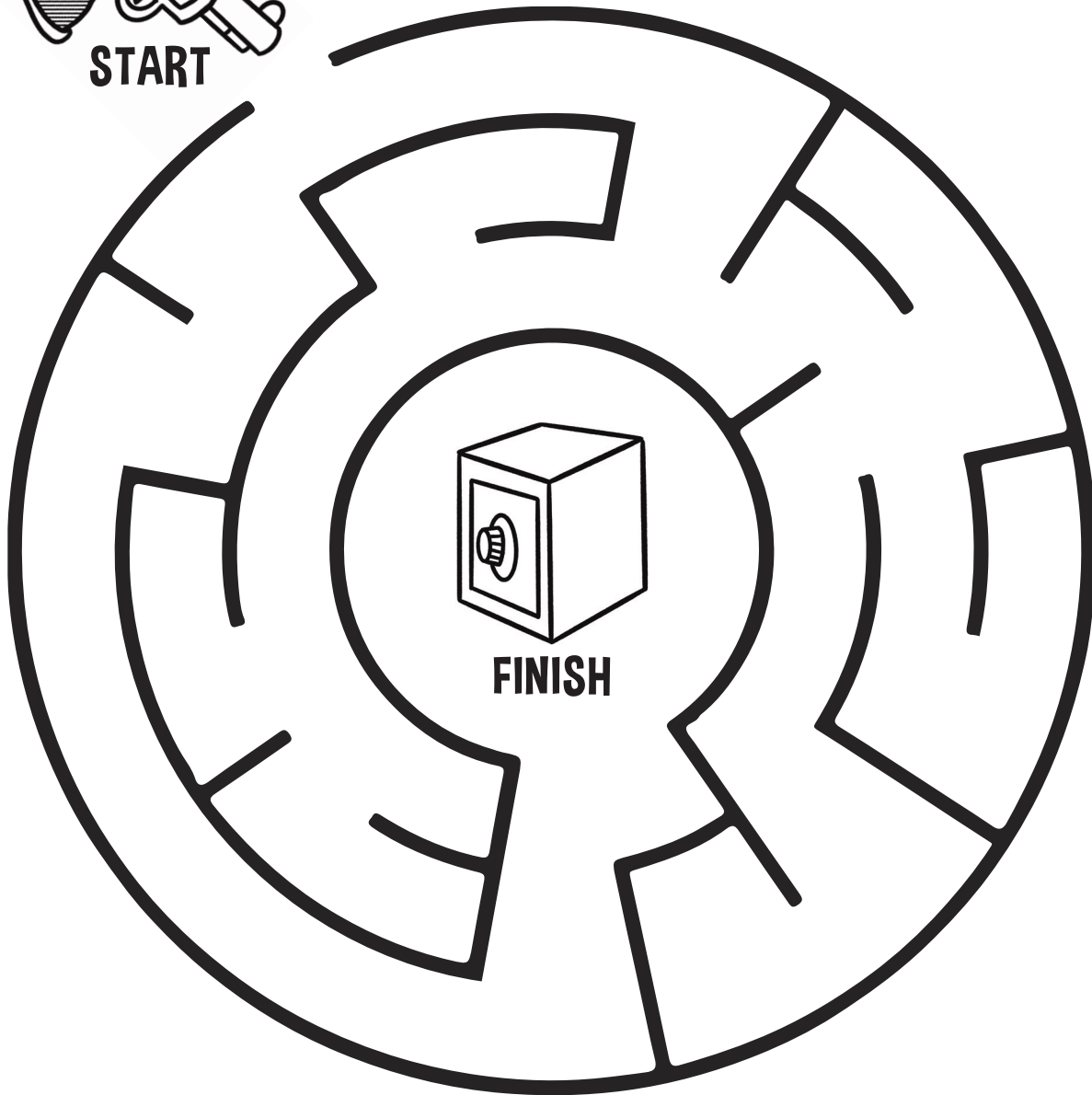
POLICE OFFICER



GAME WARDEN

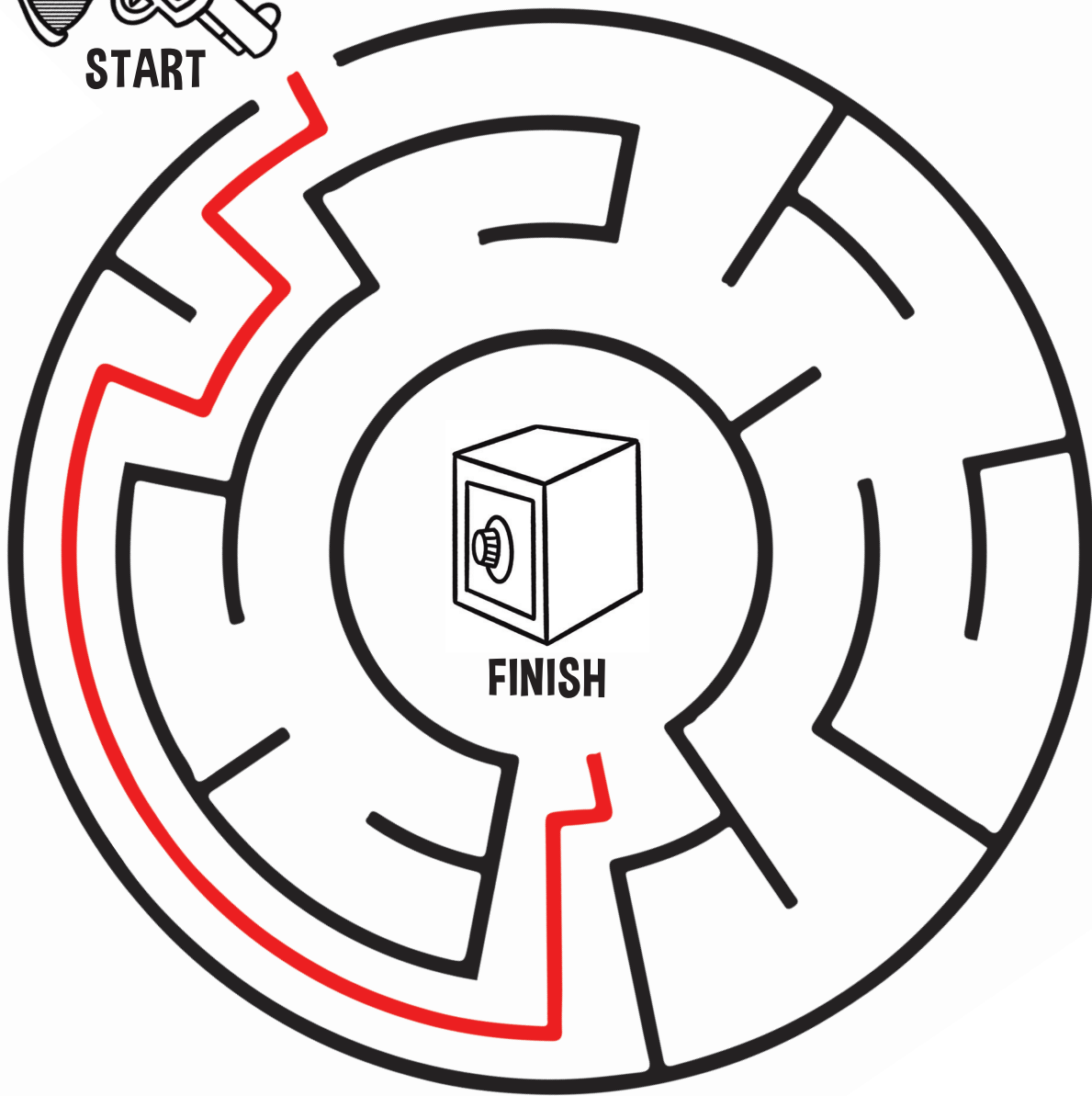
MAZE

DIRECTIONS: Get through the maze so you can put the firearm in the safe.



MAZE

DIRECTIONS: Get through the maze so you can put the firearm in the safe.



SAFETY PLEDGE

I KNOW THAT GUNS ARE NOT TOYS.

I will remember and use the safety steps:

- 1 Treat every gun as real and loaded.**
- 2 NO! Don't touch!**
- 3 Tell an adult.**

If I ever see a gun or something that looks like one, I will tell a trusted grown-up.

I pledge to treat all firearms with caution and respect.

I will choose to be safe!

NAME



FIREARMS SAFETY STEPS

What Is Safety?

Firearms Safety Steps

Knowledge in Action

Conclusion



What Is Safety?



- Safety is IMPORTANT!
- You need to be safe wherever you are:
 - Home
 - School
 - Church
 - Stores
 - Parks
 - Even unfamiliar locations
- But what does it mean to be safe?

What Is Safety?



Safety can mean:

- Knowing your surroundings
- Being careful
- Having protection (or a protector)
- Staying alert and attentive
- Avoiding harm
- Avoiding danger
- Keeping yourself and others from accident or injury

Firearms Safety Steps

Now let's learn how to be safe around firearms.

We will talk about each on its own, but for now, repeat and remember these three important safety steps:

- **Treat every gun as real and loaded.**
- **NO! Don't touch!**
- **Tell an adult.**

FIREARMS SAFETY FOR KIDS

LEARN TO STAY SAFE!

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A FIREARM:

1 TREAT EVERY GUN AS REAL AND LOADED.

It's **NOT** a toy!



NO! DON'T TOUCH!

Leave it alone!

2

3 TELL AN ADULT.

Find a trusted grown-up fast!



NEVER PLAY WITH GUNS!

Treat every gun as real and loaded.

- This is a time to be **mindful** and **careful**.
- Many fake guns look real, and many real guns look fake.
- This can make things confusing, so it's best to treat every gun as real and loaded.
- Guns are to be **respected**. And to respect an item means to take it seriously and to leave it alone, especially when it doesn't belong to you.
- Since a gun in a home, at a place of work, in a car or in someone's hand MAY or MAY NOT be loaded, we want your brain to think that it IS loaded, every time.



No! Don't touch!



- Do **NOT** touch a gun if you see one or find one.
- You don't have to be scared of firearms, but you must remember that **they are not toys!**
- Unless a parent, a teacher or a responsible, trained adult has given you permission, do NOT touch any firearm.

Tell an adult.

- This is an important step to remember!
- You don't need to run away. But you don't want to cause trouble or hurt yourself or another person.
- It's best to **have a plan** to follow in case you do happen upon a gun.
- And that plan is simple: Find or contact a **trusted adult** (a parent, teacher, neighbor, babysitter, older family member, law enforcement officer, etc.) and let him or her know, right away!



Conclusion

- You now know the basics for firearms safety and accident prevention.
- You've started to build a foundation for being safe!
- Remember to use the safety steps in your life – all the time and wherever you go – to be safe around guns ... and more.