

## Southern University Land- Grant Campus Parenting & Child Safety Fact Sheet



### The Parents Gun – Safety Pledge

- Keep curiosity in check. If I choose to own a gun, I will lock it, unloaded, in a stationary gun safe out of my child's sight and reach. I'll store ammunition in a separate lockbox. My child will never guess the combination or find the key.
- Take extra precautions. Even a young child is capable of firing a gun by accident, so if I own one I'll invest in trigger lock and, just to be sure, a cable lock (which threads through the chamber to prevent bullets from being loaded) too.
- Start a dialogue. By the time my child turns 3, I'll explain what she/he needs to do if she sees a gun- leave the area without touching it and tell the nearest adult- even if she's positive it's only a toy.
- Control media messages. I'll limit the violent TV shows my child watches and avoid shooting-focused video games, which may contribute to aggressive behavior. Plus, we'll have frank discussions about the difference between pretend gun play and the deadly nature of the real deal.
- Ask the tough questions. Before my child goes to someone else's house I will inquire about whether the family has guns and how they are stored. If I don't like the response, I'll make other plans.
- Push for stronger childproofing regulations. States that penalize owners who leave their firearms unlocked and accessible to kids have fewer tragic accidents. I'll let my congressperson know that I support such legislation by visiting [house.gov/representatives/find](http://house.gov/representatives/find) and emailing him or her.



**Sign Here** \_\_\_\_\_

**Provided By:** Southern University Parent Educator

**Adapted from:** Parents Magazine May 2013; p. 94 Visit [parents.com/gun-safety-pledge](http://parents.com/gun-safety-pledge) to send this pledge to a friend.