



Safety Corner

Topic: Gun Safety

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Learning Objective:

Participants will learn about gun safety.

How many of you have ever played Laser Tag? Laser tag is a game in which you try to “tag” people by shooting them with an infrared beam. Every time you hit your target, you get a point. By the end of the game, the person or team with the most points - wins! It is not as easy it sounds because it is usually played in the dark, and your targets or people can hide behind stationary objects while they are doing their best to shoot you too. Is it fun? Absolutely! Is it dangerous? Not really. It is just one of the ways children and adults use toy guns to have fun.

However, being able to shoot a toy gun might lead you to believe you already know a lot about guns. That is not necessarily true. This article is all about gun safety and what to do if you find a gun-of any kind-anywhere.

Question 1: True or false. You can always tell the difference between a toy gun and a real gun.

Answer: False. Many toy guns are made to look exactly like real guns. If your parents buy you a toy gun, choose one that is brightly colored. Even then, never ever point your toy gun at a law enforcement officer or anyone else who does not personally know you well. They might mistake your gun for a real one and respond as if it were a threat.

Question 2: True or false. You should never point a gun at anyone.

Answer: True. Never point a gun at anyone, even if you believe it is not loaded.

Question 3: True or false. Law enforcement officers need guns.

Answer: True. Colorado State Troopers carry guns for your protection and safety. We only draw our guns when it is necessary to stop a threat.

Question 4: On which holiday is it okay to bring a gun to school?

Answer: No holiday. Schools are gun-free zones always.



Question 5: True or False. Guns are dangerous because some of the people who use them are dangerous.

Answer: False. Guns are dangerous because they can seriously harm or kill you. It takes someone with special training to handle one properly.

Questions 6: True or false. It's okay to threaten to shoot someone as long as you don't actually do it.

Answer: False. Threatening to shoot someone can be a criminal offense, even if you don't follow through. You probably see this on TV a lot, but that doesn't make it okay. Never, ever threaten to shoot, stab, kill, hit or hurt another person.

Question 7: True or false. If you find a gun, make sure it is not loaded then give it to an adult immediately.

Answer: False. If you find a gun, don't touch it. Assume that it is loaded. Leave it there and go get an adult. Do not take it to an adult.

Questions 8: If you own a gun, how many friends should you show your gun to at one time?

Answer: Zero. If your parents allow you to have a gun, it should be locked away always and the ammunition should be kept in a separate location. You should not show it to your friends at all.

Question 9: True or false. If someone brings a gun to school, make sure they take it back home.

Answer: False. If someone brings a gun to school, tell an adult - even if the person who brought the gun to school is your best friend. Your responsibility is to inform an adult - immediately.

Question 10: True or false. Only law enforcement officers can joke about having guns.

Answer: False. Law enforcement officers don't laugh about guns, don't joke about guns, and don't play with guns. We carry guns for your safety and protection. Anytime we must draw our gun, it is a very serious matter.

Question 11: True or False. If you hear gun shots at school, drop to the floor immediately.

Answer: False. Follow a teacher's directions as you would for any lockdown. If a teacher is not around and if you can, run away. Do not try to collect anything from your desk or backpack - just go! Head for an exit outside. If you cannot run, find a barricade and lock the door, if possible. Remain quiet, turn out the lights, and wait for help to arrive. If you are outside when you hear the gunfire, run to a safe barrier.



Question 12: How many adults do you need to go hunting?

Answer: One. If you enjoy hunting, always do so with an adult who has been trained in how to handle firearms and how to administer first aid. It's probably a good idea if you know how to administer first aid too.

Question 13: BB guns, pellet guns, and paintball guns are safe alternative guns for children.

Answer: False. These kinds of guns could cause significant damage to your eyes or other parts of your body. BB and pellet guns have even been known to kill if misused. Do not utilize these guns without the supervision of an adult and always wear protective gear for your head and eyes when you do.

Question 14: Your best friend's dad got a new gun for Christmas. She wants you to see it. When is the best time of day to go see it?

Answer: No time of day! If you are at your friend's home, it is time to go! Leave at once and tell your parents. Kids should not have access to guns without their parents. Telling your parents about this might save your friend's life!

Question 15: True or False. Hundreds of children die each year from gunshot wounds.

Answer: False. Thousands die each year from gunshot wounds. Thousands more incur non-fatal injuries.

Question 16: Your friend asks you to hold the caps for his toy gun in your pocket while you ride your bikes. Which pocket should you put them in?

Answer: No pocket! Caps can ignite and cause burn injuries. Tell your friend to leave the caps at home.

If you find a gun, anytime, anywhere, the best thing you can do is FLEE! F-L-E-E.

Find a gun? Go tell an adult.

Leave it there. Don't touch, pick up or use a gun without an adult's permission and supervision.

Elect to never point a gun at someone.

Expect and assume the gun is loaded and can fire.



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Firearm Safety Rules

Firearms Safety Rule #1

All weapons must be treated as if they are always loaded.

Firearms Safety Rule #2

Never let the muzzle of a weapon point at anything you are not willing to destroy.

Firearms Safety Rule #3

Keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until the sights are on the target and you are prepared to shoot.

Firearms Safety Rule #4

Always be certain of the target and beyond.

Sources:

<http://www.projectchildsafe.org>

<https://www.cpsc.gov>

<http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/gun-safety.html#>