Steps to Safety
Gun ownership is a serious and full-time responsibility. It is the gun owner’s obligation to properly store their guns to prevent the unfortunate injury or death of themselves, loved ones, or individuals in their community. Use the following gun safety guides:

1. Keep your firearms UNLOADED when not in use.
2. LOCK UP your unloaded firearms using a trigger lock, gun safe, or lock box.
3. Store ammunition SEPARATE from your guns and locked in another safe or lock box.
4. Keep keys with you and MEMORIZE lock combinations. Keep combinations as secure as bank account information and don’t keep copies of keys at home.
5. Keep storage locations SECRET and AWAY from children, individuals who are violent or depressed, and those who abuse drugs and alcohol.

Talking to Children About Guns
Children cannot always distinguish whether a gun is real or fake, but no matter the circumstance they should be taught the following actions if they ever see a gun:

STOP Don’t touch Leave the area Tell an adult

Talk to children about the difference between real-life violence and violence they see in video games, TV shows, or movies. Encourage children to tell an adult whenever they see a gun and to not feel like a tattle-tale if they do. They are keeping themselves and others safe.

Gun Safety Statistics
Sourced from the National Safety Council

- Gun-related deaths from preventable, intentional, and undetermined causes totaled 39,740 in 2018.
- Suicides account for 61% of deaths related to firearms, while 35% were homicides, and about 1% were preventable/accidental.
- From 1999 to 2018, preventable gun-related deaths have decreased 44%, from 824 to 458 deaths.

For additional resources visit:
Familydoctor.org, Mayoclinic.org, MedlinePlus.gov, and nationwidechildrens.org.