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**Ask about gun safety where your children visit**

Nearly 1.7 million children in America live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked, and every year thousands of children are killed or seriously injured as a result.

On Saturday, parents and organizations throughout North Carolina will celebrate ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day, which urges parents to ask if there is a gun in someone's home before sending their children over to play. ASK Day is held the first day of summer, a time of year when children play more often in other people's homes. As every parent knows, children are naturally curious. That's why just talking to a child about the dangers of firearms is not enough. If a gun is accessible in someone's home, there is a good chance a child will find it and play with it.

In North Carolina, more than 168,000 children live in homes with loaded guns, and more than 82,000 children live in homes with guns that are loaded and unlocked. That means there are thousands of reasons to ask one simple question: Is there a gun in the home where my child plays?

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