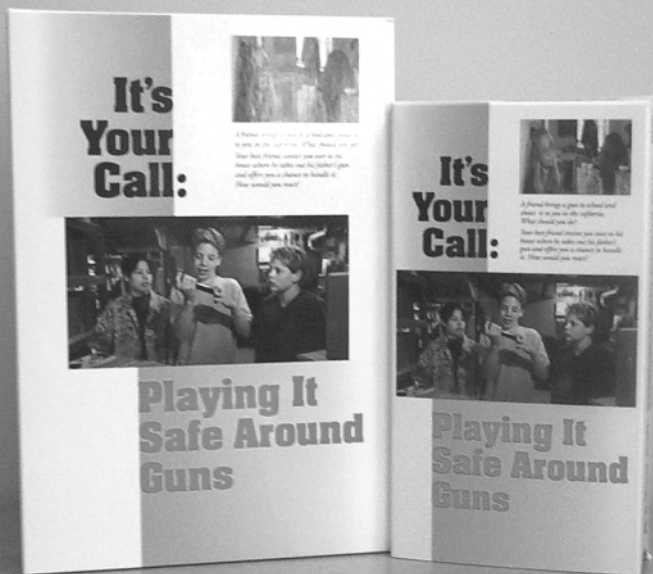


IT'S YOUR CALL

PLAYING IT SAFE AROUND GUNS



An educational video program designed especially for children in grades 6–9.

Includes student's safety pledge.

It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around GunsSM

INTRODUCTION

It's Your Call: Playing it Safe Around Guns, developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, is a video program designed to assist you in helping young people make correct decisions when confronted with firearms. This discussion guide will help you focus your class's attention on the messages of the video and will help foster a positive dialog among your students. With themes such as responsibility, knowing right from wrong and injury prevention, the program will help young people better understand the serious consequences of tampering with firearms at home, at a friend or relative's house, or at school.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To teach students the potentially deadly consequences of handling a gun without parental consent and guidance of a qualified, responsible adult.
- ◆ Instructing students to immediately leave the area if a friend is handling a gun without supervision of a qualified, responsible adult.
- ◆ To teach that certain guns can still fire even if they appear to be unloaded.
- ◆ To have students learn that it is their responsibility to report to school officials any student who talks about bringing a gun to school, even if that student appears to be joking.
- ◆ To encourage students to sign a "Firearms Safety Pledge," promising to act in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the video if confronted with a situation involving a firearm.

OVERVIEW

It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns presents two real-life situations involving guns. One situation involves a student who brings a gun to school to show off to his friends. The other involves three friends who “check out” one of their father’s guns while no parents are at home. Both situations are framed by a discussion of potential courses of action that can be taken in each case. Students can choose their desired course of action before being provided with the correct response. This technique provides educators with a segue into an engaging classroom discussion about responsibility, safety and knowing right from wrong.

DISCUSSION BEFORE VIEWING

1. Ask students if they consider themselves responsible. Have them describe what being responsible means.
2. Ask students to describe how they would react if a friend brought a firearm to school or handled a gun without parental consent and supervision.
3. Before showing *It's Your Call: Playing it Safe Around Guns*, ask students if they know (or have heard about) anyone who has brought a gun to school or handled a gun without parental consent and supervision.
4. Discuss practical reasons why a student might choose to bring a firearm to school. Such a student might reason, "I know it's wrong, but I didn't think I'd get caught," or "It's harmless because I made sure it wasn't loaded," or "It's not that serious." Emphasize before showing the video that bringing a gun to school is **always** dangerous and serious.

DISCUSSION AFTER VIEWING

1. Ask students if they think the actions the program recommends are realistic.
2. Ask students what they would do if a friend brought a gun to school and showed it to them.
3. Ask students what they would do if they heard a friend talking about bringing a gun to school the day after getting into a fight. What if a friend joked about bringing a gun to school and hurting a teacher or fellow student? Ask students how they would feel if they didn't say anything and someone was injured. How would their fellow students feel?
4. Ask students if they think John and Wendy did the right thing in telling their guidance counselor about Ted bringing his brother's gun to school. Did John and Wendy want to tell on Ted? If not, what compelled them to tell?
5. Ask students for examples of faculty members that they would feel comfortable confiding in if they were in John and Wendy's situation.
6. Ask students how they would react if a friend showed them a gun at their house like Paul did.
7. Ask students if Scott made the right call by walking away when Paul refused to put his Dad's gun away. Would your students have the courage to do the same?
8. Ask students how they would feel if they accidentally shot a friend like Harris shot Paul. How could such an event change their lives?
9. Have students discuss other potential outcomes of the two vignettes, good and bad.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Have your students sign the enclosed “Firearms Safety Pledge.” The Pledge reinforces the message of “It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns” and reinforces your students commitment to never tamper with a firearm.
- ◆ Suggest to your students that they give the signed pledge to their parents or guardians for safe keeping, and as further assurance that they will always make “the right call” when confronted with a firearm.



PLAYING IT SAFE AROUND GUNS

A Personal Commitment To My Family and Friends

Today I viewed a program entitled ***“It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around GunsSM”*** that has helped me recognize the responsibility I have to my family, friends, school, and to myself, to avoid the irresponsible, unsafe and illegal handling of firearms. The important message in ***Playing It Safe Around Guns*** has prompted me to promise the following:

- *I will never handle a gun without the consent of my parents or guardian and without the supervision of a qualified, responsible adult.*
- *I will leave the area immediately if anyone suggests handling a gun without the supervision of a qualified, responsible adult.*
- *I will never bring a gun to school, and I will report anyone who brings a gun to school, or threatens to bring a gun to school.*
- *I will urge my friends to also sign a Playing It Safe Around Guns pledge.*
- *I have discussed this pledge with my parent(s) or guardian(s) and we have signed it together.*

I, _____, do hereby promise to “play it safe” if I find myself in an unsupervised situation involving firearms.

Your signature _____

Parent’s Acknowledgement _____ Date _____

LENGTH

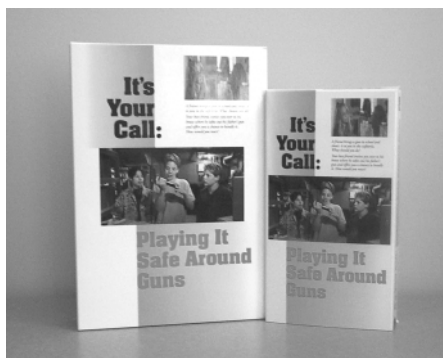
15 Minutes

SUBJECT AREAS

Safety Education

AUDIENCE

Grade Levels: 6 – 9



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