

# It's Your Call:



*"Thanks for the preview copy of 'It's Your Call.' I think it's absolutely fabulous. Very sensitively done. "*

*- Educator, New Haven, CT*



## Playing It Safe Around Guns

An important message on firearms responsibility and awareness for students in Grades 6-9.

# Only Seconds To Decide



**“It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns”** is not a firearms safety video. Instead, it is a communications effort designed to prevent firearms misuse by helping students “rehearse” their reaction if placed in a difficult situation regarding firearms. It is a 12-minute video which presents two scenarios – both showing youngsters confronted with sudden and serious decisions on how to respond when friends suggest irresponsible or unsafe behavior around firearms.

- The first scenario involves a student faced with a firearm brought to school by a friend.
- The second scenario involves a student stopping by a friend’s house on the way home from school where the friend decides to show off his father’s new handgun.

In each scenario, the student has only seconds to make a critically important decision. “It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns” provides guidance for these potential encounters. The video effectively dramatizes the scenarios, asks students how they would respond, and then provides them with the correct answer.

“It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns” has been developed — in consultation with educators, child psychologists and law enforcement professionals — for middle school students.

The program is available in VHS and DVD formats and includes a teacher’s guide and a Firearms Safety and Responsibility Pledge to be signed by students after viewing the video.

*“Well done. Excellent and timely points.”*

*- 8th Grade Teacher,  
Sleepy Hollow, NY*

*“Reinforces decision-making skills—makes good points on consequences and harms of using poor judgment regarding gun safety.”*

*- 9th Grade Teacher  
Southington, CT*

# SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



The two scenarios presented in “It’s Your Call” are framed by a discussion from Ms. Heather Miller, who represents firearm manufacturers. Ms. Miller addresses an assembly of students and assists them in making the right call on firearms safety.

**For educators, there is no single “right call” for presenting the video. It can be adapted to a number of presentation formats:**

- The instructor can follow the video’s format by presenting it at a school assembly and following up with a question-and-answer period and distributing the pledge to be signed at home with parents.
- The video can be shown in individual classrooms, again followed by an interactive discussion and handout of the pledge.
- A local law enforcement official can be invited to attend the video showing and participate in a question-and-answer period. A law enforcement presence will reinforce the serious nature of the “It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns” message.
- Your school’s drama club can perform the scenarios, framed and followed by discussion.
- Boy Scouts, youth groups and civic groups can all be shown the video and be incorporated into the presentation.

*“...stimulated good discussion...”*

*- 9th Grade Teacher, West Los Angeles, CA*

## Firearms Safety and Responsibility Pledge

At the suggestion of child psychologists, a Firearms Safety and Responsibility Pledge is distributed to the student audience at the conclusion of the video to help instill a commitment to the safety and responsibility message. Students are encouraged to bring the pledge home to sign with their parents as part of discussing the “It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns” message.

# It’s Your Call: 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 Guns*” 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Firearms Safety and Responsibility Pledge is part of the  
Teacher’s Guide included in the video package.

Additional copies of the pledge can be downloaded at [www.firearmssafetieducation.org](http://www.firearmssafetieducation.org)

# Educator Free Request Form

MAIL TO: "It's Your Call," Firearms Safety Education Foundation, Inc., 11 Mile Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470-2359

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ FREE copies (up to three free programs available) of "It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns" for use in the schools listed below.

We understand that we may keep these programs for continual use.

School \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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We could use up to \_\_\_\_\_ **additional programs** of "It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns," **if they become available.**

Please also send information on "McGruff® the Crime Dog On Gun Safety" a firearms safety program for grades K - 6.

**SHIP TO: (please print)**

Comments:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please allow 4 weeks for delivery

*"Very instructional and clear-cut message. Very positive."*

*9th Grade Teacher, Los Angeles, CA*

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To order copies of "It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns<sup>SM</sup>" simply complete and return the order form in this booklet.

**Firearms Safety Education Foundation, Inc.**

11 Mile Hill Road

Newtown, CT 06470-2359

FAX: (203) 426-1087

"It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns" and its print materials can also be ordered on the Web at **[www.firearmssafetyeducation.org](http://www.firearmssafetyeducation.org)**.

Visit **[www.firearmssafetyeducation.org](http://www.firearmssafetyeducation.org)** for more details about "It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns" and other industry-sponsored safety programs.

In addition to "It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns," the following safety programs are also available free to educators from FSEF:

■ **McGruff® the Crime Dog On Gun Safety**

– McGruff and his nephew Scruff discuss gun safety as it relates to youngsters. For grades 6 - 9. (15 minutes)



■ **Firearms Safety Depends On You<sup>SM</sup>:**

This program reviews the basic rules of safe firearms handling and storage. Designed for young adult and adult audiences. (13 minutes)

