

KNOW! TO STORE IT SAFE

SEPTEMBER, 2025



Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



ABOUT STORE IT SAFE (SIS)

Over the past 10 years, the Ohio AAP's hallmark program, Store It Safe (SIS) has led a collaborative effort to prevent

unintentional firearm injuries and youth suicide. Launched in 2015 in response to rising concerns about firearm injuries among children, SIS brought together organizations and individuals with diverse viewpoints to create unified, nonpartisan messaging and resources focused on safe storage and injury prevention. The program later expanded to address youth suicide by:

- Equipping healthcare providers to screen for depression and discuss lethal means
- Distributing lock boxes and other safe storage tools
- Connecting families and caregivers with life-saving resources

With proven tools, trusted partnerships, and a statewide network, SIS reaches youth across Ohio in both rural and urban communities. By collaborating with schools, firearm retailers, municipalities, healthcare systems, and community providers, the program continues to strengthen its impact and create safer environments where every child and teen can feel seen, supported, and safe.

Everyone has a role in suicide prevention. You can make a difference by starting a conversation.

Every September, National Suicide Prevention Month brings people and organizations together to raise awareness. This year, Prevention Action Alliance and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) collaborated to share guidance on discussing safe storage of lethal means with youth and caregivers.

1. HAVE AN OPEN-MINDED DISCUSSION WITH FAMILIES.

- Instead of asking "Do you have a firearm in the home?" ask "If there is a firearm in the home, is it kept locked and away from youth?"
 - Is the ammunition stored separately?
- Also consider other lethal means. Ask "If there are lethal means in your home—such as firearms, medications (both prescription and over-the-counter), drugs, or alcohol—are they stored locked and out of reach of youth?"

2. COUNSEL FAMILIES ABOUT STORE IT SAFE!

Restrict Access:

- Store all lethal means—firearms, medications (prescription and OTC), drugs, and alcohol—locked and completely inaccessible to youth.
- Keep storage keys and devices in separate, hidden locations.

Make a Safety Plan Before a Crisis Happens:

- Identify 3 trusted people to contact in a crisis (e.g., teacher, friend, relative).
- Practice healthy coping skills regularly to build mental resilience.

Be Crisis-Ready:

- The first hour of a crisis is often the most intense—early de-escalation is key.
- Once the situation calms, seek appropriate support or care.

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3. IF SOMEONE SUSPECTS THAT A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER IS CONSIDERING SUICIDE, WHAT SHOULD THEY DO?

You can use these Ohio AAP Store It Safe materials. Remember to ACT if you notice the warning signs for suicide or if the young person tells you they are thinking about suicide.

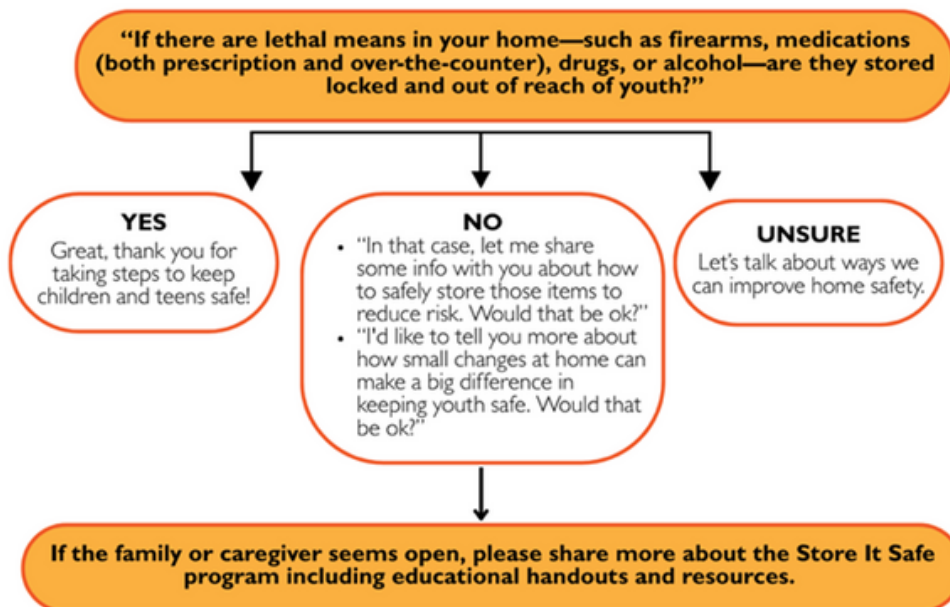
- **Acknowledge:** Talk to them. Talking about suicide does not cause it, so don't be afraid to ask.
- **Care:** Listen without judgment, ask about their feelings, and avoid trying to come up with a solution to their problem.
- **Tell:** Call a crisis line, visit the school counselor, tell a parent, or refer the teen to someone with professional skills to provide help. Never keep talk of suicide a secret! If there are immediate safety concerns, call 988 or 911.

4. DISCUSS FIREARM SAFETY WITH YOUNG CHILDREN.

Explain that firearms are dangerous and share these safety rules:

- Stop immediately.
- Don't touch the firearm—even if it looks like a toy.
- Leave the area.
- Tell an adult right away.

Sample Conversation Flow Chart



RESOURCES

- [Store It Safe Website](#)
- [Life Side Ohio](#)
- [Nationwide Children's Suicide Prevention Resources](#)

Scan to visit the
Store It Safe
Website:



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Tips for Everyone:

