



# Wings

A Weekly Newsletter for Families

May: Week 5  
Family Safety

“Nothing is impossible,  
the word itself says ‘I’m  
possible’”!  
- Audrey Hepburn

## Be SMART about Gun Safety

Every year, at least 100 children aged 17 and under die in unintentional shootings, and over 400 die by suicide.

The best way to prevent these deaths and injuries is to not own a gun. But if you choose to own a gun, follow these easy and effective gun safety rules from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense and Everytown for Gun Safety:

- Secure guns in homes and vehicles.
- Model responsible behavior.
- Ask about unsecured guns in other homes.
- Recognize the risks of teen suicide.
- Tell your peers to Be SMART.

In addition, the American Academy of Pediatrics advises:

- Never allow your child access to your gun(s).
- Never keep a loaded gun in the house or the car.
- Lock guns and ammunition away safely in separate locations; make sure kids don’t have access to the keys.
- Guns should be equipped with trigger locks.

For more tips to keep your children safe from gun violence and accidents, go to <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx> and <http://besmartforkids.org/about/>



## •• INFANT Inspiration

Playpen Safety -

- Never leave a child unattended in a playpen
- Never leave a baby in a mesh playpen with the side lowered - the baby could get trapped
- Don't use soft bedding or pillows in the playpen
- Cover or repair all tears in the padded parts
- Show caregivers how to correctly set up the playpen
- Do not place a playpen near a window where cords on drapes and blinds could strangle the baby
- Never tie or string toys from the sides of the playpen

## •• TODDLER Tales

Safety Gates -

- Don't use old accordion-style gates - they can trap a child's head
- The gate should be no less than three quarters of the child's height
- Keep large toys away from the gate to prevent toddlers from using them to climb over
- Gates that swing out should never be used at the top of the stairs
- Stop using the gate when your child is about 2 years old

## •• PRESCHOOL Power

Carefree Swinging -

Swings are the most frequent source of childhood injuries from moving equipment on a playground.

- Kids should always sit in the swing, not stand or kneel. They should hold on tight with both hands while swinging.
- Stop the swing completely before getting off
- Kids should stay a safe distance from other kids on swings, and not run or walk in front of or in back of moving swings
- Kids should never ride with more than one child per swing - they're designed to hold just one person

