

McGruff® Talks to Students about Gun Safety

Dear Educator,

Gun safety is an important topic at schools across the country. To help you address this topic in your classroom, the National Crime Prevention Council has created two gun safety videos featuring McGruff the Crime Dog®. The videos teach children in grades K-6 how to stay safe if they should find a gun at home or see a student with a gun at school. The lesson is simple: **Stop. Don't touch. Get away. Tell an adult.**

This free teaching kit is designed to assist you in making McGruff's gun safety lesson part of your class plans. The kit includes suggestions for introducing the topic of gun safety, along with discussion prompts to help focus student attention on the key messages of the videos and to reinforce learning through positive dialogue. The kit also provides a reproducible activity sheet for each video that you can use to assess student comprehension; a reproducible take-home letter to engage families in the learning process; and a reproducible gun safety pledge sheet for students and their parents/guardians to sign together.

McGruff Talks to Students about Gun Safety has been developed in partnership with the National Shooting Sports Foundation®, whose Project ChildSafe® is the largest, most comprehensive firearm safety education program in the U.S. Additional free resources from Project ChildSafe and from the National Crime Prevention Council are available at the microsite created for this program at ymiclassroom.com/mcgruff-gun-safety.

Please share this program with other teachers at your school and let us know your opinion about the program at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-mcgruff. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



McGruff the Crime Dog®
National Crime Prevention Council
National Shooting Sports Foundation®



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Project ChildSafe® is a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation®.
McGruff the Crime Dog®, Scruff®, and "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" are registered marks of the National Crime Prevention Council.

Questions? Please call 1-800-859-8005 toll free.
We look forward to helping you.

Target Audience

Elementary school students in grades K-6 and their families

Objectives

- To teach students how to stay safe if they find a gun at home or see a student with a gun at school.
- To reinforce that children should never handle a gun without adult supervision.
- To remind students of their responsibility to inform a teacher or another trusted adult if they see a student with a gun at school.
- To enlist parents/guardians in teaching and practicing gun safety at home.
- To encourage students and parents/guardians to sign McGruff's Gun Safety Pledge.



How to Use this Program

1. Preview the McGruff® gun safety video appropriate for your grade level/students. Links to both videos can be found at the program microsite, ymiclassroom.com/mcgruff-gun-safety.

- **Molly's Mischief**
(2 minutes, grades K-2)
McGruff's nephew Scruff® is visiting his friend TJ when TJ's little sister Molly finds a gun in their parents' bedroom. Scruff helps Molly understand why kids should never handle a gun without adult supervision and teaches them his uncle's **4 Steps of Gun Safety: Stop. Don't touch. Get away. Tell an adult.**

- **Not Cool, Kyle**
(2 minutes, grades 2-6)
McGruff's nephew Scruff and his friend Mara are shocked when their friend Kyle shows them a gun in his backpack on their way into school. They explain to Kyle why it is dangerous to bring a gun to school and remind him that he could get in big trouble. Scruff teaches Kyle and Mara his uncle's **4 Steps of Gun Safety: Stop. Don't touch. Get away. Tell an adult.** Then he goes with Mara to tell a teacher about Kyle's dangerous behavior.

2. Make photocopies of the appropriate activity sheet, the take-home letter, and the pledge sheet for all your students.

3. Contact your school media or technology coordinator to be sure you can access the McGruff videos and display them in your classroom.

Teaching Molly's Mischief

Grades K-2
One class period

Discussion Before Viewing

- Ask students if they are familiar with McGruff the Crime Dog® and his slogan, "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®." Where have they seen him? What does he talk about? Explain that today McGruff is going to teach them an important lesson about gun safety.
- Ask students if they know (or know about) anyone who has handled a gun without adult supervision. How did it happen? Was anyone hurt? Explain that McGruff and his nephew Scruff are going to show them how to stay safe if they or any of their friends find a gun at home. (Note: Try to steer students away from identifying anyone by name. Also be alert to intervene if a student's response becomes emotionally charged.)

Discussion After Viewing

- Remind students that Molly didn't understand the word *supervision*. Ask students to define the word. Ask for examples of trusted adults who can provide supervision (parent, guardian, teacher, police officer). Talk about why kids should not handle a gun without adult supervision.
- Ask students what they should do if they see a gun in another location such as a school, park, or a friend's home.
- Ask students what toy guns look like. How can you tell they are toys? Ask if they have seen guns on television or in movies. How can you tell that those are pretend guns? Talk about how it is hard to tell whether a gun is real or not just by looking at it. Why is it safer to follow McGruff's 4 Steps of Gun Safety anytime you see a gun that looks real?



- Remind students that Scruff is going to ask his uncle to talk with TJ and Molly's parents about storing their gun safely. Ask students for ideas on where the gun should be stored. Explain that guns should be stored safely in a gun safe or locked metal box, a locked closet, or a locked room.
- Reinforce the 4 Steps of Gun Safety by having students recite them together. Then play a game where you ask each student to say the 4 Steps in sequence over and over until all students have been called on.

Classroom Activity Sheet

- Distribute copies of the activity sheet. Read the directions for the True/False quiz aloud, then read each question aloud, giving students time to mark their answers. For younger students, have the class show a "thumbs up" for True and a "thumbs down" for False, then discuss the correct answer immediately after each question. Otherwise, discuss the answers after students have completed the quiz. (Answers: 1-True, 2-False, 3-True, 4-True, 5-True)
- Read the directions for the second part of the activity sheet aloud. Have students complete the word puzzle individually, then review their answers. For younger students, work through the puzzle word by word at the chalkboard/whiteboard, prompting students to supply the missing letters.
- In addition to having the students participate in the activities in class, have them take the activity sheet home to complete with a parent/guardian.

Teaching Not Cool, Kyle

Grades 2-6
One class period

Discussion Before Viewing

- Ask students if they are familiar with McGruff the Crime Dog® and his slogan, "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®." Where have they seen him? What does he talk about? Explain that today McGruff is going to teach them an important lesson about gun safety.
- Ask students if they know (or have heard about) anyone who has brought a gun to school. What happened? Was anyone hurt? Do you know why the student had a gun at school? Explain that McGruff and his nephew Scruff® are going to show them how to stay safe if they see a student with a gun at school. (Note: Try to steer students away from identifying anyone by name. Also be alert to intervene if a student's response becomes emotionally charged.)

Discussion After Viewing

- Talk about why Kyle brought the gun to school. Did he know it was against the rules? Did he know that someone might get hurt? He says he just wants to show it to his friends. What does that mean? Why does he think his friends would want to see a gun? How would you react if a student showed you a gun in his/her backpack?
- Talk about how Scruff and Mara reacted when Kyle showed them the gun. Kyle says they are acting weird. What do you think? Scruff says the gun is scary. What is he scared might happen? Why isn't Kyle scared? Should he be?
- Ask students if they think Scruff and Mara did the right thing in telling a teacher about Kyle's



bringing a gun to school. Did Scruff and Mara want to tell on Kyle? If not, why did they do it? Is there anything else they could have done? (Use this question to emphasize that telling a teacher or another trusted adult is the only acceptable action in this situation.)

- Reinforce the 4 Steps of Gun Safety by having students recite them together. Then have students work in small groups to create a rap, song, or rhyme based on the four steps. Have the groups perform their raps for one another.

Classroom Activity Sheet

- Distribute copies of the activity sheet. Read the directions for the multiple-choice quiz aloud. Have students complete the quiz individually, then review the answers as a class. (Answers: 1-a, 2-d, 3-b, 4-c)
- Read the directions for the second part of the activity sheet aloud. Have students complete the word puzzle individually, then review their answers. (Answers: 1-Stop, 2-Touch, 3-Away, 4-Tell, Adult)
- In addition to having the students participate in the activities in class, have them take the activity sheet home to complete with a parent/guardian.

A	S	B	C	D	A
E	T	E	L	L	D
T	O	U	C	H	U
F	P	G	H	I	L
J	A	W	A	Y	T

Pledge Signing and Take-Home Letter

- Distribute the pledge sheets and take-home letter.
- Have students stand and raise their right hands as they read the pledge aloud. Then have students sign their pledge sheets in the space provided. Tell them to have a parent/guardian sign and date the pledge sheet in the spaces provided when they get home. Encourage students to display their pledge sheets prominently at home.
- Direct students to give the take-home letter to a parent/guardian. Explain that the letter asks parents/guardians to watch the McGruff gun safety videos with their children. Encourage students to find time to watch the videos with a parent/guardian and to share what they have learned about gun safety today.

Gun Safety Educational Resources

- McGruff Talks to Students about Gun Safety
ymiclassroom.com/mcgruff-gun-safety
- McGruff's 4 Steps of Gun Safety
ncpc.org/McGruffGunSafety
- Project ChildSafe
projectchildsafe.org





Molly's Mischief

Name: _____

Do you remember what Molly learned about gun safety? Take this quiz to find out.

- 1. True or False? The guns you see on television can't really hurt anyone.**
 True False
- 2. True or False? Little guns are not as dangerous as big guns.**
 True False
- 3. True or False? Adult supervision means having an adult with you.**
 True False
- 4. True or False? If you find a gun, you must tell an adult right away.**
 True False
- 5. True or False? Guns should always be locked up in a safe place away from kids.**
 True False



Help Molly remember **McGruff's® 4 Steps of Gun Safety**.
Fill in the missing letters. Use the word box if you need help.

- 1. St __ p.**
- 2. D __ n't t __ uch.**
- 3. G __ t aw __ y.**
- 4. T __ ll an ad __ lt.**

Word Box

Tell an adult.
Stop.
Don't touch.
Get away.





Not Cool, Kyle

Name: _____

Do you remember what Kyle learned about gun safety? Take this quiz to find out. Put a check mark next to the correct answer.

1. Why did Kyle bring a gun to school?

- a. To impress his friends
- b. To protect himself
- c. To help keep the school safe
- d. All of the above

2. Why is it wrong to bring a gun to school?

- a. Someone could get hurt
- b. It will scare other students
- c. You will get in trouble
- d. All of the above

3. What should you do if you see a student with a gun at school?

- a. Tell the student to leave the school
- b. Tell a teacher, principal, or another trusted adult
- c. Call the police
- d. All of the above

4. What should Kyle do with the gun?

- a. Take it back home
- b. Learn how to tell if it is loaded
- c. Take his backpack to a teacher, principal, or another trusted adult
- d. All of the above

Help Kyle remember **McGruff's® 4 Steps of Gun Safety**. Circle the missing words in the puzzle. Then write them where they belong on the blank lines.

1. _____.
2. Don't _____.
3. Get _____.
4. _____ an _____.

A S B C D A
 E T E L L D
 T O U C H U
 F P G H I L
 J A W A Y T



McGruff's[®] Gun Safety Pledge

I hereby promise:

If I ever see a gun, at home or at school, I will follow
McGruff's 4 Steps of Gun Safety:

- 1. Stop.**
- 2. Don't touch.**
- 3. Get away.**
- 4. Tell an adult.**



Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

McGruff Signature:



Date: _____



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For more information on gun safety, visit:
ncpc.org/McGruffGunSafety
projectchildsafe.org

McGruff® Talks to Students about Gun Safety

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Today at school your child learned about gun safety from **McGruff the Crime Dog®**, a safety expert whom you probably remember from your own days in the classroom.

McGruff and his nephew Scruff® are the stars of two new gun safety videos designed to teach students in grades K-6 how to stay safe if they find a gun at home or see a student with a gun at school. The lesson is simple:

1. **Stop.**
2. **Don't touch.**
3. **Get away.**
4. **Tell an adult.**

Your child has learned to follow these four steps and why they are important for safety. We hope you will reinforce this lesson by viewing McGruff's gun safety videos with your child.



Molly's Mischief (for grades K-2)
Molly learns what to do when she finds a gun in her parents' bedroom.



Not Cool, Kyle (for grades 2-6)
Kyle learns why it is never cool to bring a gun to school.

Both videos are available free of charge on the **McGruff's 4 Steps of Gun Safety** page at the National Crime Prevention Council website: nccpc.org/McGruffGunSafety.

On this webpage you will also find a link to **Project ChildSafe®** (projectchildsafe.org), the National Shooting Sports Foundation's comprehensive firearm safety education program. We encourage you to visit Project ChildSafe for additional gun safety resources, including a free safety kit that comes with a cable-style gun lock and detailed instructions for storing guns safely. In addition, you may wish to view the Project ChildSafe video "Talking with Kids about Gun Safety" (projectchildsafe.org/talking-to-kids), which offers clear and simple tips to help keep kids safe when there are guns in the home. The McGruff videos also may be viewed at projectchildsafe.org.

Gun safety is an important topic for all Americans, gun owners and non-gun owners alike. We hope that you will join us in helping today's children learn and live by **McGruff's 4 Steps of Gun Safety**, so that together we can set them on the path to a safer future.

Sincerely,



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