

Broadmeadow UMC's
United Methodist Women

Not One More:

Gun Violence Prevention Initiative

If You Find a Gun

Project to Educate Elementary Children

The United Methodist Women of Broadmeadow UMC in Jackson say *Not One More* family should have to grieve the tragic loss of a gun violence victim. We pray for *Not One More* incidence of gun violence in our city, our state, and our country.

At least two people a day are killed in the U. S. by a mishandled gun. Too often, the victims are young children. *Not One More* child should be injured or killed in an accidental shooting. We want to make a difference in our community by teaching children what to do if they come across a gun.

In Spring 2018, we piloted a training program in our neighborhood elementary school. Here are suggestions on how to set up a similar program with your UMW group.

1. Establish a relationship with an elementary school or elementary program.
We got a quick okay from our school's principal because we had an ongoing relationship with her and the school. Some personal connection with the school or group is helpful but a first contact prompted by concern for the children's safety may be well received also. Consider private and home-school groups as well as public schools and programs.
2. Select and review the training materials to be used.
We used the Eddie Eagle video on Youtube, after much perusal of available materials. The video is about 8 ½ minutes and is age-appropriate for pre-K through about grade 3. We used a McGruff the Crime Dog children's handout and children's pledge, and a Parents' Pledge we developed from various sources on the Internet.
3. Meet with school administration to present the training plan, receive permission to deliver the training, and set training dates.
We presented our plans to the principal and assistant principal, including copies of the materials we would be using. We planned for sessions of about 20-25 minutes, including the video. Our school's classrooms each had smartboards we could use to show the video, so we trained class by class. The school gave us a week with three potential time-slots a day for scheduling the training.
4. Prepare handouts and training materials.
We made copies of the McGruff coloring sheet/children's pledge and a 2-sided Parents' Pledge for each child and packaged them in class-sized bundles to leave in the school office. Each trainer also had a copy of the URL for the video and a script to use as a starting point for discussions before and after the film.

5. Recruit trainers and review the training materials with them.
UMW members volunteered as trainers and signed up in pairs. Everyone had a copy of the handouts and script and was encouraged to review the video before the training.
6. Coordinate trainer/classroom schedule with the school.
We matched trainer availability with the school's time slots and sent the school a training calendar so they could assign training times to classrooms. We covered the 8 first and second grade classes in the initial training.
7. Conduct a pilot session.
One group of trainers conducted a session the day before the primary training was to start, just to get any teacher feedback and iron out any issues.
8. Train the students.
The children were delightful and the teachers very positive and encouraging. We had fun!
9. Hand out student and parent take-homes.
We have read that even with this training, many children are just too tempted to pick up a gun. The Parents' Pledge was our attempt to make sure parents were thinking about gun safety for their children. We'd like to attend a PTA meeting in the fall prior to offering more training so the parents will know what we are doing and why.
10. Follow up with the faculty and administration.
Our school's faculty and administration were very supportive of this training. One suggestion we had from a classroom teacher was to make the follow-up to the video as interactive as possible, so we all danced and sang and acted out the four safety steps with the children!

Training Packet:

- Sample Script
- Children's Handout
- Parents' Pledge
- Eddie Eagle URL

Other Resources:

- Gun Violence Prevention: A Training Program for Elementary Children

Gun Safety Training with Eddie the Eagle Video

Introduction

Hello Boys and Girls,

Our names are _____

We are so glad to see you and we are so pleased that your teacher and principal let us have a few minutes to come and talk with you about something that is very important.

This important thing is safety—being safe at all times and in all the places you go. What does being safe mean?

Children's answers;

Acting in ways that keep you from being hurt in any way.

You all go different places and participate in different activities every day. I am going to name some of these places you go and some activities in which you take part. If you know something you can do to keep yourself safe while you are at these places or doing these activities, raise your hand.

1. School: Children's answers; E.g. do not run in the halls
2. Riding in a car: Children's answers; e.g. wear a seatbelt
3. Crossing a busy street: Children's answers; e.g. look both ways
4. Riding your bicycles: Children's answers; e.g. wear a helmet
5. Swimming: Children's answers; e.g. never swim alone; don't run around the pool; do not dive unless you are positive the water is deep enough

That brings us to a very serious question: how do you act if you see a weapon?

What is a weapon?

Children's answers;

Anything that can be used to hurt someone

Can you name a weapon?

Children's answers;

Today we are going to show you a short film about being safe if you find a weapon like a gun. The film is about Eddie the Eagle and his friends, the Wing Team, who learn a very important lesson about guns. Please pay close attention because we will want to talk about it when we finish.

*****SHOW VIDEO*****

What do we want to remember if we find a real weapon, like a gun?

(Suggestion: Have the children stand up and go through the motions of each step several times)

1. Stop (Motion: Palm out)
2. Don't touch (Motion: shake finger "no")
3. Run away (Motion: run in place)
4. Tell a grownup you trust (Motion: Hand cupped at mouth as if calling someone)

We want to give you a sheet to take home that will help you remember these 4 steps. It has McGruff the Crime Dog, reminding kids how to be safe around weapons. You can color it and keep it in your room to remind you what we learned today.

There is also a pledge on the sheet. What is a pledge?

Children's answers

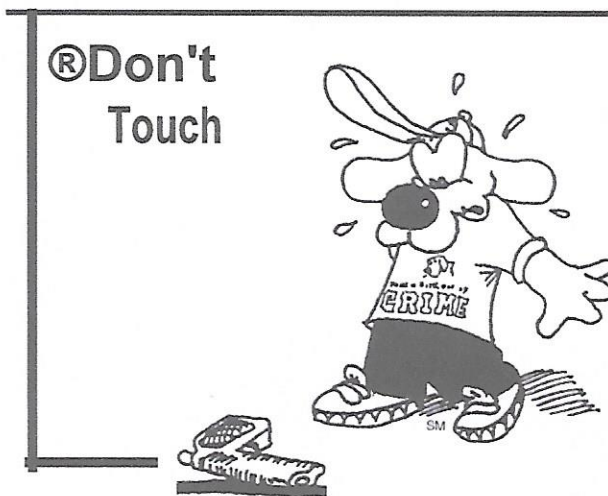
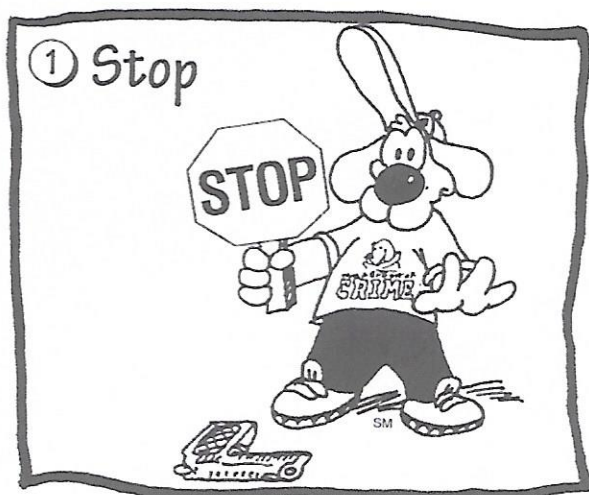
A promise

This pledge is a promise to yourself. Read it. Then write your name on it. The pledge and pictures will remind you how to be safe if you are ever in a situation where you or a friend finds a gun.

At the end of the day, your teacher is going to give you a sheet on gun safety that you can take home to your parents. Be sure to remember to give it to them!

We enjoyed being with you all today and hope you liked Eddie and his friends. Have a happy and safe summer!

If You Find A Gun...



2001. All rights reserved. 1-800-901-4222. 2001-4862-876-9272. ncpa.org or www.mcgruff.org
www.mcgruff.org

MCGRUFF the CRIME DOG'S

STAY AWAY FROM GUNS

PLEDGE

I agree to:

Never touch a gun I find anywhere—at home, at a friend's house, or on the street.

Get away fast and tell a trusted grown-up like my mom or dad.

Settle arguments with words, not violence.

Name:

Write your name here

PARENTS' PLEDGE:

I WILL ALWAYS ASK ABOUT GUNS IN THE HOME

Because I am fully responsible for the safety of my precious child:

- I pledge to **ALWAYS** ask about guns in the home before my child goes to another house to play.
- If there are guns at another child's house, I will ask how the guns are stored (locked, unloaded, ammunition locked separately, trigger guards).
- If I don't feel completely sure that there are no guns, or that the guns are stored safely if there are guns, I will **NOT** let my child go to the house. I will suggest the children play at my house instead.
- If there are guns in my home, I will ensure they are safely stored (locked, unloaded, ammunition stored separately and locked) and that children do not have any access to them. I will volunteer this information to other parents before their children come to my house to play.

The Reality: Children often have easy access to guns in the home

1 in 3

homes with children have guns, many
unlocked or loaded



3 in 4

children ages 5-14 know where firearms
are kept in the home



80%

of unintentional firearm deaths of kids
under 15 occur in a home



Even when a child has been trained not to touch guns, seeing a real gun is usually just TOO tempting. When left alone with a gun, 65% of children will pick it up and pretend to shoot it.

If you have guns in the home, follow every safety standard for their storage to prevent ANY access by a child.

When your child is going to another child's house for the first time, promise yourself that you will ALWAYS ask about guns in the home. Here are some suggestions to make it easier:

- Lump together all safety questions in a matter-of-fact way. "Jack can't wait to come over. Before I bring him – can you let me know if you have any pets, if there is a pool and if you have any guns in your home?"
- If a child is coming to your house, volunteer the information without being asked. Tell the other parent: "I don't have a pool, I have a small, friendly dog and we don't have any guns in our house." Parents will usually respond by giving the same information back: "No dog, but otherwise, same here!"
- Tell the other parent how hard it is to ask about guns. You can say, "I know it sounds weird to ask about guns, but I took a pledge and promised myself I would ask before every single play date – so I'm asking!"
- When you ask about guns in the home, emphasize safe storage, not ownership. If there are guns, ask how they are stored. All guns should be kept unloaded and locked away, and the ammunition should be locked in a separate place. Trigger locks are another good safety feature.
- If you aren't comfortable with the answers you get, ask if the kids can play at YOUR house. For example, "I have a very active little boy who's really curious and into everything. I just don't feel comfortable with him playing in a place where there are guns. Let's set up a playdate at my place."

Eddie Eagle Video

eddieeagle.nra.org