

## Sample Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

Eight children are killed with guns every day in America. Every time we lose another child, we mourn the senselessness of the tragedy, but rarely do we hear about a tangible opportunity to do something to prevent more children from dying.

I am writing about one such opportunity. It is called ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day, and it urges parents to ask if there is a gun in someone's home before sending their children over to play. ASK Day will be held on June 21, 2011, the first day of summer, when children play more often in other people's homes.

The official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that more than 18,000 children in Connecticut live in homes with loaded guns, and nearly 3,400 children live in homes with guns that are loaded *and* unlocked. Asking whether there is a gun in someone's home may be difficult, but it could save your child's life.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor:

Nearly 1.7 million children in America live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked, and every year, thousands of children are killed or seriously injured as a result.

On June 21, 2011, parents and organizations throughout [your community] will mark ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day, which urges parents to ask if there is a gun in someone's home before sending their children over to play. ASK Day is held the first day of summer, when children play more often in other people's homes.

The official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that more than 18,000 children in Connecticut live in homes with loaded guns, and nearly 3,400 children live in homes with guns that are loaded *and* unlocked. Asking whether there is a gun in someone's home is a practical solution that could save your child's life.

Sincerely,

\*The statistics mentioned above were released by *Pediatrics*, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, in 2005. State-level data are available on page e373. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/116/3/e370>