



Power NO: Guns & Weapons



Bold Text:	suggested words to say to teach lesson
<i>Italics:</i>	suggested actions to take
(Parenthesis):	background information or suggested answers

After **Check First**, the remaining lessons may be covered in any order. Be sure to cover the lesson on Power NO: Pressures before this one.

Materials Needed for Lessons

- Charlie Check-First poster
- 3 Steps poster
- Reinforcement Activities (optional)
- Letter to the Parents/Guardian

Objectives for Students

- Identify legal and illegal reasons to have a gun.
- Name at least three safety rules to follow concerning a gun.
- Explain why a gun does not *solve problems*.
- State what to do if they come in contact with a gun.

☆ Always start with a review of the Check First concept!

Lesson

Flex arms to show muscles and strength. Say NO in a strong, assertive voice.

This is the Power NO! The Power NO gives you the ability to be in charge of your body concerning what harms you and what is safe for you.

There are three steps for the Power NO:

- 1. Say NO.**
- 2. Get away from the situation.**
- 3. Tell an adult.**

An easy way to remember the steps is: NO! GO! TELL!

Today we are going to discuss how the Power NO applies to guns and weapons. Guns have been around since the fourteenth century. Let's see how much you know about guns; what is true and what is not true.

Reinforcement Activity # 1

Give the students time to work individually or in pairs to complete this worksheet. As you go through the lesson, you will discuss each answer.

Since their very beginning, guns have had numerous benefits as well as harmful consequences. One of the original purposes of a gun was to aid in hunting. But it did not take long before guns were used on people as well as animals. People keep guns for different reasons. Let's look at the worksheet.

Question # 1

Are there any legal reasons to have a gun? (yes) Name some of them.

(hunting, recreational target shooting, protection, for some types of work)

What are some illegal reasons? (to frighten or threaten others, to solve problems, to feel important, for force in situations such as robbery, drug deals, bodily harm)

Question # 2

Even if a person keeps a gun legally, that person needs to follow safety rules.

What are some safety rules for guns? (Never point a gun [toy or real, loaded or unloaded] at anyone, always use gun locks, do not leave a gun loaded, take a firearms safety class.) Discuss.

Question # 3

How many homes in America have firearms?

Ask one half of the class to stand up.

On an average, roughly this many kids from a class our size have guns in their homes. Multiply this number by 10 million (more or less depending upon size of group) and that is about how many homes have guns in them!

The students who are standing should remain standing for the next question.

Question # 4

How many of those firearms are kept loaded?

Ask one half of those standing to sit down. (The amount of students left standing gives a rough idea of how many kids in this room would have access to a loaded gun.)

Discuss: Why are there so many guns? Where are they kept? Is this safe?

Question # 5

Are there less than 300 children who are home alone and are able to come in contact with a gun in their home? There are more! Lots more! Over one million children have access to a gun or weapon when they are alone!

Discuss: Is this important? Do you think they know how to get hold of the guns? Do you think they know how to handle them properly?

Question # 6

Are you really safe if you keep a gun in your home? Guns kept in the home for protection are more likely to kill a family member or friend than an intruder!

Discuss: Why? Does this defeat the purpose of the gun as protection? (What are the laws in your state regarding shooting an intruder?)

Question # 7

Can you SOLVE social problems by using a gun? Discuss. (Social problems refers to emotional or physical problems with other people. This is different than shooting an animal that is disturbing you or your house.)

Some people, especially teenagers and young adults, feel that they can solve social problems by using a gun. Is this true? Are you really more powerful? Could you be causing more problems than you are solving?

Discuss: types of problems they could cause, consequences of these actions, what does it actually solve, etc. (This can be a very lengthy and healthy discussion.)

Possessing or using a gun to feel important, to force someone to do something, or to be in control can lead to serious consequences of injury or death; not only to others, but to yourself as well.

Question # 8

How many kids are killed by a gun each week?

Ask 14 children to come to the front of the room. Point out the 14 empty seats and the void these kids left in the group.

Every day, 14 children under the age of 20 are killed and many more are wounded by guns. Just look at the impact that made on our class.

Discuss the magnitude of this fact.

Question # 9

Is it true that if you find a gun, you should check to see if it is real and then give it to an adult?

This is absolutely false! You need to follow the 3 steps in the Power NO:

- 1. Say NO to touching it.**
- 2. Get away from the situation.**
- 3. Tell an adult.**

Discuss.

What other kinds of weapons might you see or encounter that may be dangerous or harmful to you? *Discuss.* (knives, explosives, even hypodermic needles and lead pipes can be used as a weapon)

If you are not alone and someone else wants you to touch, hold, or shoot the gun, use one of the Refusal Skills we discussed.

Review the basic Refusal Skills:

1. Say NO! Say it in a variety of ways. Repeat it. Mean it. Be strong!
2. Make up an excuse or give a reason why you cannot do something.
3. Offer an alternative activity.
4. Ignore the pressure and change the subject.
5. Leave the situation. Walk away.
6. Stay with a buddy! It is easier to refuse if you are with a buddy who also resists.
7. Avoid the pressure. Stay away from situations and people that will be hard to resist.

Evaluate the whole situation. Make a smart decision. Use whatever technique works for you!

Closure

A gun is a tool that can be used for legal purposes and can also be used for illegal reasons and for harm. A gun and other weapons should be taken seriously and never used as a toy or as a joke.

Since it is not always easy to tell a real or loaded gun from a fake or unloaded gun, the safest thing to do is not to touch it. A smart decision can keep you from getting hurt. It is smart to leave the gun alone!

This is a good time to refer to any recent news articles on guns, accidental shootings, intentional shootings, etc.

Review the 3 steps to take in the Power NO for guns:

1. Say NO to touching it.
2. Get away from the situation.
3. Tell an adult.

Role-Play

Let the students make up scenarios about finding a gun. Have them role-play the situation showing the proper response.

(If they get graphic or silly, you may need to create the scenarios and monitor their role-play actions so it does not become morbid or ridiculous.)

When you are in doubt about any situation involving a gun or weapon, just Check First.



Check First before you do anything involving a gun or weapon!

**If you cannot check, follow the 3 Steps to:
Judge, Think, and Act!**



★ *Allow time for discussion.*

Be a Safety Kid!



Power NO: Guns

Reinforcement Activity # 1

Do you think these statements are True or False? Circle your answer.

True False

1. There are no legal reasons why a person should keep a gun.

True False

2. If an adult has a gun for a legal purpose, there are no special rules that need to be followed.

True False

3. Nearly half of the homes in America contain firearms.

True False

4. Only a small number of those firearms in the home are kept loaded.

True False

5. Less than 300 children who are home alone have access to guns in their homes.

True False

6. Guns kept in the home for protection are not likely to harm anyone in the family.

True False

7. You can *solve* social problems by using a gun.

True False

8. In the USA, about one child a week is killed by a gun.

True False

9. If you find a gun, you should check to see if it is real and then give it to an adult.



Power NO: Guns Reinforcement Activity # 1 Answers

These are the answers to the True and False questions.

- False** 1. **There are no legal reasons why a person should keep a gun.**
(job, hunting, recreation, sport)
- False** 2. **If an adult has a gun for a legal purpose, there are no special rules that need to be followed.**
(keep guns unloaded, locked, and out of sight of children, take firearms safety course, be responsible)
- True** 3. **Nearly half of the homes in America contain firearms.**
- False** 4. **Only a small number of those firearms in the home are kept loaded.** (more than half)
- False** 5. **Less than 300 children who are home alone have access to guns in their homes.** (about one million)
- False** 6. **Guns kept in the home for protection are not likely to harm anyone in the family.** (43 times more likely to kill a family member or friend than an intruder)
- False** 7. **You can “solve” social problems by using a gun.**
- False** 8. **In the USA, about one child a week is killed by a gun.**
(14 children under the age of 20 are killed every day!)
- False** 9. **If you find a gun, you should check to see if it is real and then give it to an adult.**



Power NO: Guns Reinforcement Activity # 2

Decode these reasons why someone may keep a gun in the house. Then decide if that reason is legal or illegal. Circle the correct word.

1. Legal Illegal

2. Legal Illegal

3. Legal Illegal

 Legal Illegal

4. Legal Illegal

 Legal Illegal

Key

A=	G=	M=	S=	Y=
B=	H=	N=	T=	Z=
C=	I=	O=	U=	
D=	J=	P=	V=	
E=	K=	Q=	W=	
F=	L=	R=	X=	



Power NO: Guns
Reinforcement Activity # 2 Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Hunting | Legal |
| 2. Robbery | Illegal |
| 3. Drug deals | Illegal |
| 4. Police officer | Legal |