

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In the United States, 6.7 million children live in homes with access to an unlocked or unsupervised gun. And the consequences of this are deadly. Every day, eight children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed due to [family fire](#) — a shooting that results from someone misusing an unsecured firearm from the home. Unintentional shootings, firearm suicide, and many intentional shootings are also forms of family fire.

These tragedies increase as children are on summer vacation and spending more time at home or the homes of others. According to an analysis by [Brady](#), the nation’s oldest gun violence prevention organization, half of the weeks in the year with the most unintentional shootings by children occurred during the summer. With June 21st marking the beginning of summer, now is the time when Americans must take action to protect our kids.

Parents already ask all types of questions before their children visit other homes over summer break — questions about food, allergies, swimming, and safety. On June 21st, in honor of “Asking Saves Kids Day (ASK Day)” Brady reminds parents, guardians, and caretakers to add one more question to their list: “Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?”

It’s a simple question, but it could save a life.

All of us — gun owners and non-gun owners alike — have a role in preventing family fire. If safe storage practices are deployed in just 20% more households with children, we could reduce firearm suicide and unintentional firearm fatalities among youth by up to 32%. For some ASKing could be the first step that encourages life-saving change.

Here in [Community name] we can all take the simple step of ASKing now and throughout the year. Together, we’ll make ASKing part of our routine before sending our kids off to be with friends. Raising awareness about the risks of unsecured firearms in our community will help us reshape our culture and bring ourselves closer to a future free from gun violence.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Profession]
[Your City]

