

As educators, we strive to establish a safe environment for children, advocate for children's needs and work with others invested in the health and well-being of children. **We are pleased to support the Be SMART for Kids gun safety campaign.**

Firearm-related deaths and injuries are a national public health crisis. Firearms are the 2nd leading cause of death among children in the US. These deaths are preventable and safe gun storage is critical component to firearm injuries and deaths. 4.6 million children live in homes with unsecured guns.

The **Be SMART for Kids** program is in line with the American Academy of Pediatrics' policy statement on firearm injuries in children and is endorsed by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Be SMART program focuses on **S**afe storage, **M**odeling responsible behavior, **A**sking about unsecured guns in other homes, **R**ecognizing the role of guns in suicide and telling your peers to Be SMART.

For more information about the program visit besmartforkids.org.