



Store It Safe: Suicide Prevention

Family Discussion Guide provided by the
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Store It Safe is a unique partnership of healthcare providers, firearm advocates, and community organizations established to keep children safe from unintentional firearm deaths and teens safe from suicide by firearms. Young children are curious and will touch anything, while teens are still learning to control impulses. Our goal is to inform families of risks so they can keep their children safe.

Suicide Facts:



Unsupervised teen firearm access **triples** the risk of death by suicide



50% of survivors
made an attempt within
20 minutes of their decision to
attempt suicide



Of youth who completed
suicide, **82%** used a firearm
from their home

Emotional Triggers Should Not Be Lethal

What can you do to keep your teen safe?

- The teen brain is still developing, which can lead to emotional situations that override their still-developing impulse control
- Knowing risks for injury and using a barrier can help keep your teen safe
- Teens can engage in risky behaviors and react to seemingly small stressors
- Even with no history of depression, teens sometimes make impulsive decisions with deadly results. **Education alone is not enough.**

Barriers are Effective

Risks

Firearms:

- 90% of suicide attempts with a firearm are fatal
- Nearly 2/3 of all US firearm deaths are due to suicide
- The rate of firearm suicide by teens is up 61% over the past 10 years
- Teens should not know the combination or location of keys to firearm safe



Barrier as Prevention

- Even if experienced with firearms, teens should only have supervised access to them
- Keep any firearms that are not under your direct control locked away
- Ammunition should also be locked when not in use
- Consider temporarily removing firearms from the home if someone is suicidal

Medications:

- Teens often take medications in suicide attempts
- Both prescription and over-the-counter medications can result in overdose deaths
- **Tylenol**, when taken over suggested dosage, can cause life-threatening injuries or death, even if appearing symptom free for the first 24 hours



- Always keep prescription and over-the-counter medications locked away and out of the reach of children and teens
- Have a family conversation about the dangers of misusing medications
- Never share medications with family members
- Dispose of prescription medications after the period they are prescribed

Alcohol:

- Alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the US and is readily accessible in homes
- Alcohol causes more than 4,300 deaths among US teens each year



- Like medications, alcohol should be locked away and not accessible to teens
- Talk to your teen about alcohol and potential dangers. Keep the lines of communication open and let your teen know that they will not be in trouble if they come to you with concerns.

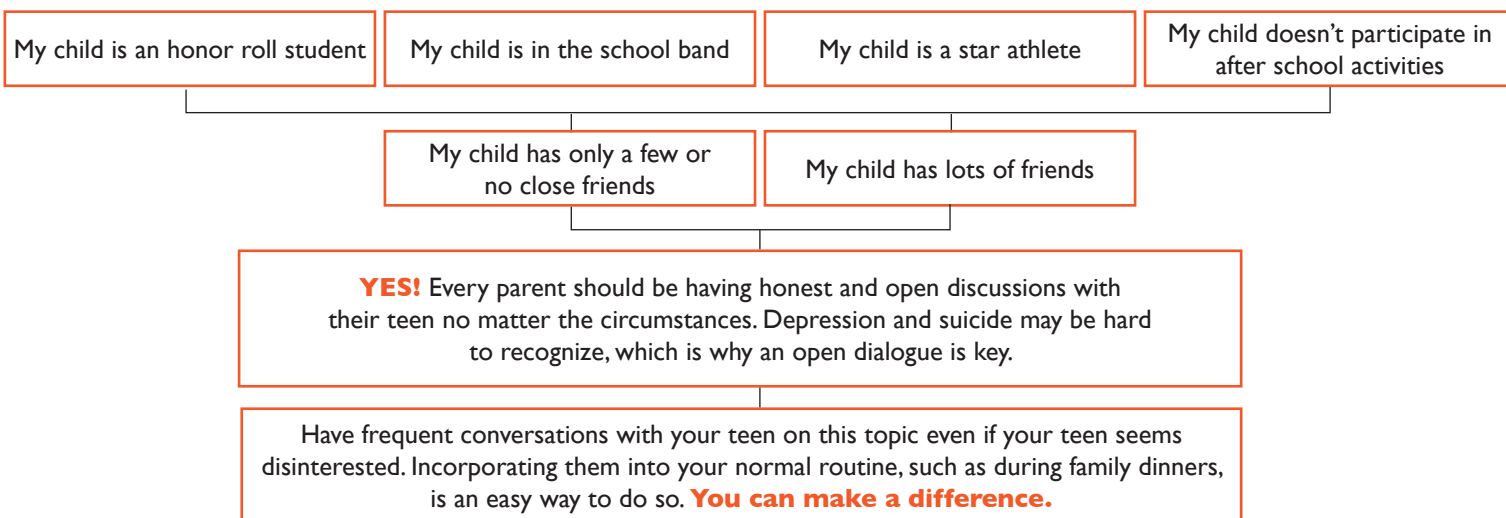




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Should I talk to my child about mental health and suicide?



Warning Signs:

- Depression and other mental concerns, or a substance abuse disorder
- Talking about feeling hopeless or worthless
- Previous suicide attempt(s)
- Withdrawing or isolating from friends, peers and family
- Family history of suicide, mental illness, or depression
- Knowing someone with suicidal behavior (i.e. family member, friend or celebrity)
- Severe stress or anxiety
- Sudden changes in behavior such as talking less or becoming disengaged



Whether your child has mental health concerns or not, teenagers should not have unsupervised access to any lethal means. This includes firearms, prescription medication, and over-the-counter medicine.



Resources:

Your teen's safety is important to you, your doctor, and members of your community. You deserve to have all the information possible to prevent injury risks.

- 1) Have a discussion with your teen and their pediatrician
- 2) If you have further questions, refer to the following resources and continue to do frequent check-ins with your teen:
 - Suicide Prevention Resource Center - <https://www.sprc.org/>
 - Suicide Prevention Lifeline - <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
 - Suicide Prevention Lifeline - Call 1-800-273-8255
 - Crisis Text Line - Text HOME to 741741
- 3) If you have life threatening concerns go directly to your local emergency department

Questions?

Ohio AAP resources can be found at: <http://ohioaap.org/storeitsafe>

My treatment plan

Name _____ Date of visit _____

Treatment

Self Care: Taking good care of yourself is the first step to feeling better. Think about how you could improve. Pick 1-2 areas to work on to start.

- **SLEEP** - An average of 8 hrs. of sleep a night is ideal for most teens. Avoiding screens/light/TV 30 minutes before bed makes it easier to fall asleep.
- **EXERCISE** - Exercise releases natural hormones called endorphins that help improve your mood. Try to move actively with a non-sitting activity every day.
- **NUTRITION** - Three meals a day will help you maintain energy. Fill up with what your body NEEDS. Try to make half your plate fruits and vegetables. Increase your water intake. Learn more at www.choosemyplate.gov
- **SCHEDULE TIME WITH OTHERS** - Plan something fun to do in person with someone else. Spending time with friends and loved ones can improve your mood.
- **DO SOMETHING YOU ENJOY** - Activities you like help relax and improve your mood.
- **SPIRITUAL/RELAXATION** - Ask family members how they have used spiritual tools, prayer, meditation or relaxation techniques to help them in their lives
- **GRATITUDE** - Focus on the positives. Write down 3 things you were grateful for each day.

Therapy: For most teens, the most helpful way to overcome illness is therapy. Several types of therapy can help. Therapy should help by giving you tools to use to help your brain (and thoughts) stay healthy. It is not just talking about problems on a couch! Sometimes it may seem hard, but remember that your illness may be getting in the way – talk to your therapist often about the recovery process.

Medication: Sometimes your doctor may offer medicine to help you reach your treatment goals fully. Your medical provider will work with you and your caregivers to decide if this is best. If a medication is started, your medical provider will give you more information.

Helpful Websites:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

- **Mental Health Resources:** www.cincinnatichildrens.org/patients/child/special-needs/medical/mental-health
- **Psychiatry:** www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/p/psychiatry/resources
- **Teen Resources:** <https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/a/suicide-awareness/outreach-program>

1N5—General mental health resources and tools—<http://www.1N5.org>

National Alliance on Mental Health: mental health education and support groups—<http://www.nami.org>

Helpful apps:

- Calm
- Calm Harm
- Breathly
- Pacifica
- Headspace
- Mood Tools
- Virtual Hope Box
- Wysa

My self care goals: (first steps)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My Treatment/Support Team:

Medical provider: _____

Therapist: _____

Nurse: _____

Family: _____

My Medication and dose (if started):

Emergencies:

Your treatment team wants to make sure you are safe and getting better. If your mood is getting worse, contact your family members and medical provider or therapist right away. Contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** anytime. Crisis Text Line: **Text "START" to 741-741**. If you are concerned that you might hurt yourself or someone else, call 911, or go to the Emergency Department right away.

Psychiatric Intake Response Center (PIRC) at Cincinnati

Children's Hospital

(available 24/7): 513-636-4124

**Don't wait to educate
yourself at
1N5.org/resources**



1N5

5030 Oaklawn Dr. • Cincinnati, Oh 45227

1N5.org • 513-814-3007

Mental Health Doesn't Wait. *Neither Do We.*

**Our goal is to help you resolve the crisis, reduce your stress,
and connect you with ongoing support.**

A mental health crisis can come at any time of the day, and it often does not require a visit to the hospital emergency room. That is where Best Point Pediatric Mental Health Urgent Care can help. We provide immediate crisis counseling which can include rapid assessment, crisis intervention and de-escalation, psychoeducation, cognitive behavioral skill-building, care and safety planning.

How We Can Help

- There is a need for immediate mental health support or assessment.
- Your child has had a recent and significant change to mood or behavior.
- Your child's emotions are beyond control.
- Your child has recent self-injury.
- Your child is expressing non-specific or passive thoughts of harming themselves, wishing they were dead, and/or considering ending their life.
- Your child is experiencing an increase in mental health symptoms significantly impacting functioning at home or school.
- Your child experienced a recent traumatic event and is struggling to cope.

Our Approach

Immediate Support and Stabilization: Our top priority is the immediate crisis stabilization of your child. We work with you and your child to calm high emotions and guide you both through the crisis.

Creating your Safety Plan: Our therapists will create a custom safety plan and provide you with additional resources to keep your child safe. You and your child will leave our urgent care feeling confident in returning home safely.

Aftercare Planning: These types of crises arise from ongoing problems and stress your child may face. To help prevent crises from happening again, our care coordinators will make referrals or provide you with suggestions to seek ongoing care for your child.

Contact us today so we can work together to help you resolve the crisis and keep your child safe.



Best Point Pediatric Mental Health Urgent Care
5051 Duck Creek Road | Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
Monday - Friday | 9:30 am - 6:00 pm | 513.527.3040

If your child has a specific plan to end their life or there is an immediate safety concern, please go to your local emergency room or call 911.