Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: M. **Date:** July 28, 2011

Topic: First Review of the Proposed Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum

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Origin:

____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

__X_ Board review required by
- __X_ State or federal law or regulation
- ____ Board of Education regulation
- ____ Other: _____

__X_ Action requested at this meeting ____ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

__X__ No previous board review/action

___ Previous review/action
date _____

Background Information: The proposed *Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum* are being brought before the Board for first review. The development of these guidelines and this curriculum is required by § 22.1-204.1. of the *Code of Virginia* (2011), which states:

> Local school boards may provide firearm safety education programs for students in the elementary school grades. To assist local school boards electing to provide firearm safety education programs, the Board of Education shall establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized program of firearm safety education for the elementary school grades to promote the protection and safety of children enrolled in the public schools. The curriculum guidelines shall incorporate, among other principles of firearm safety, accident prevention and the rules upon which the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program offered by the National Rifle Association is based. Local school boards electing to provide firearm safety education shall offer instruction pursuant to the Board's curriculum guidelines and shall integrate firearm safety education into appropriate subject areas, if feasible, to ensure that every elementary grade student completes the course of study in firearm safety education.

The purpose of these guidelines and this curriculum is to keep students safe by providing guidance and materials based on the rules and principles of firearm safety and accident prevention to teachers for instruction of gun safety and by providing resources for parents. The guidelines and curriculum promote the premise that all community members want to protect students from unintentional gun accidents or deaths. Guns are very rarely brought into schools. Gun accidents occur most often in the community or in the homes of students. A sample notification regarding the gun safety lessons is included for schools to send to parents, encouraging them to review and discuss them with their children.

Summary of Major Elements: The *Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum* provide background information on gun use and consequences from the misuse of guns. Each lesson is complete with background information, lesson guidelines and plans, suggested scripts for teachers, and student materials. Lessons are aligned with specific Virginia Standards of Learning for each grade. School divisions are guided to develop procedures for instructors to assist students who may disclose sensitive information during a lesson.

The curriculum is designed as single units of instruction for each grade. In addition to what to do if a student were to find a gun, the kindergarten through second-grade lessons address recognizing professionals who use guns for safety reasons and individuals who safely use guns in sporting events. The third- through fifth-grade lessons continue to focus on what to do if a student were to find a gun. The consequences of gun violence and personal responsibility for gun safety in the community are introduced. In each lesson, the character "Finnigan the Fox" is present as the safety mascot. This character is used to reinforce the message that if a student sees a gun: "Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; and Let an Adult Know."

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the *Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum*.

Impact on Resources: The document is free to all school divisions and will be available on the department's Web site. There is minimal impact on fiscal resources.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: The guidelines and curriculum will be presented to the Board for final adoption on September 22, 2011.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GUN SAFETY GUIDELINES AND CURRICULUM

Commonwealth of Virginia
Board of Education
July 2011

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Preface

The purpose of these guidelines and curriculum is to keep students safe and to prevent gun accidents by providing simple steps to follow if they should encounter a gun at home, school or in the community. This curriculum is based on the premise that all community members want to protect students from unintentional gun accidents, injuries or deaths. The rules and principles of firearm safety and accident prevention are the basis for the development of the curriculum and guidelines.

The Board of Education adopted the *Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum* according to § 22.1-204.1 of the *Code of Virginia, Firearm safety education program*:

> Local school boards may provide firearm safety education programs for students in the elementary school grades. To assist local school boards electing to provide firearm safety education programs, the Board of Education shall establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized program of firearm safety education for the elementary school grades to promote the protection and safety of children enrolled in the public schools. The curriculum guidelines shall incorporate principles of firearm safety, accident prevention and the rules of the National Rifle Association's *Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program*. Local school boards choosing to offer an elementary gun safety program must comply with the Board of Education guidelines and integrate the instruction in appropriate subject areas and, if feasible, ensure that every elementary school student receives instruction in firearm safety education.

Guns are very rarely brought into schools. Gun accidents occur most often in the community or in the home of students. It is important for parents to be aware and informed of these lessons. Therefore, a sample parent notification regarding the gun safety lessons is included in the Appendix A. The guidelines also provide resources on precautionary steps for minimizing the possibility of a gun accident and encourages parents to discuss gun safety with their children.

The *Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum* provides background information on gun use and consequences from the misuse of guns in our country and in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This information is intended to enhance the instructor's understanding of the context for facilitating the curriculum lessons.

Each lesson is complete with background information, lesson guidelines and plans, suggested scripts for teachers with discussion points, and student materials. Lessons are aligned with specific Virginia Standards of Learning for each grade. Instructors are provided general suggestions for using "teachable moment" opportunities. These may include expanding students' understanding of the difference and similarities between real and toy guns, unintended consequences, and an introduction to the student code of conduct and gun offenses. School divisions should develop procedures for instructors to assist students who may disclose sensitive information during the lesson.

The curriculum is designed as single units of instruction for each grade. In addition to what to do if a student were to find a gun, the kindergarten through second-grade lessons assist students in recognizing professionals who use guns for safety reasons and individuals who safely use guns for sporting activities. The third- through fifth-grade lessons continue to focus on what to do if a student were to find a gun. The consequences of gun violence and personal responsibility for gun safety in the community are introduced. In each lesson the character "Finnigan the Fox" is present as the safety mascot. This character is used to reinforce the message that if a student sees a gun: "Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; and Let an Adult Know."

Background Information

Youth violence has an impact on a community in a number of ways. When an act of violence occurs and involves a young person, whether as a victim, aggressor, or witness, there are life-changing consequences. The impact of an event may affect the youth in physical and emotional ways. The impact on the community can include medical costs and fear and discomfort. According to the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Prevention and Health Promotion Web site:

> *Childhood unintentional shooting deaths occur more frequently in or around the home of a friend or relative. While Virginians have the right to own guns, they have the responsibility to store those guns safely and out of children's reach. According to the 2002 Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, approximately 38 percent of Virginians keep firearms in or around their homes; and 1 in 6 are unlocked and loaded.*
>
> *An even larger number of children are hurt by nonfatal gun-related injuries. Although gun- related injuries peak in adolescence, they can affect infants and younger children too. Younger children are most likely injured, either shooting one's self or a playmate, after finding a gun in a home and playing with it, not realizing that the gun is real or that it is loaded.*

The Virginia Board of Education *Student Conduct Policy Guidelines* address gun offenses and sanctions when a student brings a gun to school. Instructors can help students become aware of the consequences of bringing a toy or real gun to school or to a school-sponsored event by encouraging adherence to the school division student code of conduct.

Many individuals within a community carry guns. Students need to understand which community members may publicly carry guns. The *Code of Virginia* at § 18.2-308 states that those who can carry a gun for their occupation or recreation include law-enforcement officers, licensed security guards, and military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, or any person having a valid concealed handgun permit or any person engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting range or shooting contest.

Many gun incidents are accidents and can be prevented by knowledge and practice of gun safety behaviors. This background information provides the context from which instructors should teach this material.

Handling Sensitive Student Disclosures

Teachers should be aware that gun safety discussions may elicit an emotional response in students. Responses may include a student sharing how many guns his/her parent has in their home, that someone they know was a victim of gun violence, or even that they have witnessed gun violence. Each school division needs to develop protocols and procedures that enfold community culture and norms to address sensitive student disclosures. The protocol should include guidance for responding to a student's disclosure in the classroom. Consulting with a school counselor, social worker, psychologist, student assistance specialist or principal should be included in the protocol. Instructors should be aware of any recent community events involving guns or violence when teaching the lessons.

KINDERGARTEN

GUN SAFETY LESSON

Kindergarten Lesson Profile

Students will learn to identify individuals in the community who safely carry guns as a part of their job. Activity one entails discussing with students the duties of community helpers and why they would or would not carry a gun. The *Code of Virginia* § 18.2-308, personal protection; carrying concealed weapons; when lawful to carry, states that those who can carry a gun for their occupation or recreation include law-enforcement officers, licensed security guards, and military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, or any person having a valid concealed handgun permit or to any person engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting range or shooting contest.

In activity two, a story will highlight the three gun safety rules: leave it alone; leave the area; let an adult know. The characters Kevin, Jimmy, Sarah, and Roscoe are friends and live in the same neighborhood. They often play outside after school. They find a gun in the bushes and have to decide what to do. This will help students learn three safety rules to use for making a good choice if a gun is discovered.

Kindergarten Lesson Objectives and Instructional Steps

Objective One
Students will learn to recognize community members who safely use guns.

Objective Two
Students will learn three safety rules for making a good choice when a gun is discovered.

Instructional steps

1. Students will be introduced to gun safety through a question and answer session. The students will identify who they think uses guns in the community as a part of their jobs.

2. Students will complete the "Helpers Who May Carry A Gun" activity. This activity will help students through a guided practice of identifying community helpers who may carry a gun. The activity may be completed as a classroom or individual exercise by using the PowerPoint slide.

3. Teachers will read "The Bushes," a gun safety story, and discuss key points by asking the students what they would do if they found the gun.

4. Students will be taught the three gun safety rules – Leave It Alone. Leave the Area. Let an Adult Know.

5. At the closure of the lesson, students will repeat the safety rules aloud to assist in the memorization and application of the safety rules.

Kindergarten Lesson Guidelines and Plans

Overview and Purpose Students will learn to recognize community members who safely use guns. Students will learn three safety rules for making a good choice if a gun is discovered.			Standards of Learning Correlations English K.1; K.3 oral language
	Teacher Guide	Student Guide	
Objectives (Specify skills/information that will be learned.)	Students will learn to recognize community members who safely use guns by circling them on an activity sheet. Students will learn three safety rules for making a good choice if a gun is discovered.	Student will be able to (1) identify community helpers who carry a gun as part of their jobs; (2) know what to do if they find a gun; and (3) identify who can help if a gun is discovered. Students will learn the three gun safety rules.	Materials Needed Pencils Computer/LCD Activity Sheet • "Helpers Who May Carry a Gun" PowerPoint Slides • "Helpers Who May Carry A Gun" • "The Bushes" • Finnegan the Fox Gun Safety Rules Parent Notification Appendix A Finnigan The Fox Poster Appendix B
Information (Give and/or demonstrate necessary information.)	Teachers will provide instruction on the gun safety rules and reinforce what to do if a gun is found. Teachers will provide instruction on individuals who use guns as a part of their jobs.	Students will recognize community helpers who may carry guns. Students will listen to "The Bushes" story and conclude the right choice to make if a gun is found.	
Verification (Steps to check for student understanding)	Teachers may check for understanding through oral communication and/or completion of an activity sheet.	Students will demonstrate mastery of the information through correct responses on the activity sheet. Students will recite the three gun safety rules.	Other Resources
Activity (Describe the independent activity to reinforce this lesson.)	Teachers will inform parents about the gun safety lesson, three gun safety rules, and provide resources and information on gun safety precautions.	Students will be instructed to share with parents the information learned in this lesson.	

Kindergarten Teacher Suggested Script and Discussion Points

Suggested Script for Teacher

Today we are going to talk about gun safety. Many people have jobs to keep us safe. These may include men or women who work in jobs such as police officers, security guards, park rangers or those in the military. People in these jobs may carry guns while they are at work. They only use guns in case of an emergency to protect themselves and others.

Discussion Points

Display the PowerPoint slide of "Helpers Who May Use A Gun." You may ask, who are they and why do you think they carry a gun? Examples of student answers may include:

- To keep us safe
- To make sure people are not mean to each other
- To keep us safe from animals

Answers to *Helpers Who May Use A Gun* Activity - Police Officer, Park Ranger, and Military person.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Sometimes a gun gets lost or misplaced or we find it accidentally. We are going to read the story "The Bushes." It's about children your age who find a gun and they do not know what to do. While we read the story, think about what you would do.

Discussion Points

Present the PowerPoint slides of the story as it is read. After reading the story, ask students what they think the children should do now. Show the students the "Finnigan the Fox Gun Safety Rules" PowerPoint slide and provide instruction to them on the three safety rules.

Ask the students what they think the adult should do once Kevin, Jimmy, and Roscoe tell him or her about the gun. Examples of student answers may include:

- Do not touch the gun
- Keep students away from the gun
- Call the police

Teachers may explain to the students the following steps adults should follow: (1) reinforce the students for following "Finnigan the Fox Gun Safety Rules;" (2) ask the students to identify the location of the gun; (3) make sure the children are safe; (4) do not touch the gun; (5) do not allow anyone else near the gun; (6) call the local law enforcement authorities; and (7) do not leave the gun until it is properly secured by law enforcement authorities.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Finnigan the Fox wants all children to be safe. So, Finnigan the Fox says if you see a gun Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; Let an Adult Know.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

HELPERS WHO MAY USE A GUN

Directions: Circle the people that carry a gun as part of their job.

(PowerPoint slide)

"THE BUSHES"

Kevin, Jimmy, Sarah, and Roscoe are playing in the park near their home.

(PowerPoint slide)

Jimmy wanders towards the bushes and spots what looks like a gun.

PowerPoint slide)

He calls Kevin, Roscoe, and Sarah over to see the gun. Sarah tells the boys, “I don’t want to see a gun unless a trusted adult is with me!”

(PowerPoint slide)

The boys quickly run to Kevin's Mom who is nearby and tell her they have found a gun. Kevin's Mom tells the boys she is happy they followed "Finnigan the Fox Gun Safety Rules."

(PowerPoint slide)

GUN SAFETY RULES

Finnigan the Fox says

LEAVE IT ALONE

LEAVE THE AREA

LET AN ADULT KNOW

FIRST GRADE

GUN SAFETY LESSON

First Grade Lesson Profile

In activity one, students will explain why individuals in the community safely carry guns as part of their jobs. Each person is in a job that requires that he or she carry a gun for protection. This protection is for the safety of other people. The second activity focuses on people who should safely use guns in a sport.

The *Code of Virginia* § 18.2-308, personal protection; carrying concealed weapons; when lawful to carry, states that those who can carry a gun for their occupation or recreation include law-enforcement officers, licensed security guards, and military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, or any person having a valid concealed handgun permit or to any person engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting range or shooting contest.

In the safety story, "The Box," Johnny and Mia are friends who are riding their bikes in the neighborhood. Johnny's older brother, Fred, wants to show them what is in his backpack. Fred takes a box out of his backpack, opens the box in front of Johnny and Mia, and displays a gun. They react to see the gun by seeking an adult.

First Grade Lesson Objectives and Instructional Steps

Objective One
Students will learn to recognize individuals who use guns for safety reasons and that individuals may learn to use guns safely in a sporting activity.

Objective Two
Students will learn three gun safety rules for making a good choice if a gun is discovered.

Instructional steps

1. Students will be introduced to gun safety through a question and answer session.

2. The students will identify who they think uses guns in the community as a part of their jobs.

3. Students will complete the following exercise: "People Who Use Guns to Protect" and "People Who Safely Use Guns in a Sport." The activities will reinforce recognition of community members who carry guns. If completed as worksheet activities, students will identify these members by placing numbers and symbols in the boxes next to the characters on the activity sheets. The activities may be completed as a classroom or individual exercise by using the PowerPoint slides.

4. Teachers will read "The Box," a gun safety story, and discuss key points by asking the students what they would do if they found the gun.

5. Students will be taught the three gun safety rules – Leave It Alone. Leave the Area. Let an Adult Know.

6. At the closure of the lesson, students will repeat the safety tips aloud to assist in the memorization and application of the safety tips.

First Grade Lesson Guidelines and Plans

Overview and Purpose	Standards of Learning Correlations
Students will learn and be able to recognize individuals who use guns for safety reasons and individuals who use guns safely in a sporting activity. Students will learn three safety rules for making a good choice when a gun is discovered.	English 1.3al language 1.7; 1.9

	Teacher Guide	Student Guide	
Objectives (Specify skills/information that will be learned.)	Students will learn to recognize individuals who use guns for safety reasons and individuals who use guns safely in a sporting activity. Students will learn three gun safety rules for making a good choice if a gun is discovered.	Student will: (1) identify community helpers who carry a gun as part of their jobs and that guns may be used for sporting activities; (2) know what to do if they find a gun; and (3) identify who can help if a gun is discovered.	Materials Needed Pencil Computer/LCD Activity Sheets • "People Who Use Guns to Protect" • "People Who Safely Use Guns in a Sport" PowerPoint Slides • "People Who Use Guns to Protect" • "People Who Safely Use Guns in a Sport" • "The Box" Story • Finnigan the Fox Gun Safety Poster Parent Notification Appendix A Finnigan the Fox Poster Appendix B
Information (Give and/or demonstrate necessary information.)	Teachers will provide instruction on individuals who use guns as part of their jobs and individuals who safely use guns in sporting activities. Teachers will provide instruction on the safety rules and reinforce what to do when a gun is found.	Students will recognize individuals who have been taught to safely use guns. Students will read a story "The Box," and conclude the importance of making a good choice of a gun is discovered.	
Verification (Steps to check for student understanding)	Teachers may check for understanding through oral communication and/or role play.	Students will demonstrate mastery of the information through correct responses on activity sheets. Students will recite the three gun safety rules.	Other Resources
Activity (Describe the independent activity to reinforce this lesson.)	Teachers will inform parents about the gun safety lesson and the three gun safety rules, and provide resources and information on gun safety.	Students will be instructed to share with parents the information learned in this lesson.	

First Grade Teacher Suggested Script and Discussion Points

Suggested Script for Teacher

Today we are going to talk about gun safety. Many people have jobs that keep us safe. This may include men or women who work as police officers, security guards, park rangers or those in the military. People in these jobs may carry a gun while they are at work. They only use the gun in case of an emergency to protect themselves and others.

Discussion Points

Display the PowerPoint slide of the police officer, security guard, park ranger, and military soldier. Ask the students why these workers might carry a gun. Examples of student answers may include:

- To keep us safe
- To make sure people are not mean to each other
- To keep us safe from animals

Suggested Script for Teacher

Some people use guns in sporting events. Guns may be used for hunting and shooting at a target. Many people complete a gun safety class before using a gun.

Discussion Points

Display the PowerPoint slide of the hunter and individuals shooting at a target. You may ask the students, *"Can you think of other activities where a person might use a gun safely?"* Examples of student answers may include:

- Movies or television
- War enactments
- Video games
- Hunting videos
- Sport programs involving target shooting
- Olympic shooting competitions

Verifying Knowledge

Pass out the activity sheets <u>People Who Use Guns to Protect</u> and <u>People Who Safely Use Guns in a Sport</u>, or use the PowerPoint slides to facilitate this as a class activity. Instruct the children to identify the people in jobs who use guns to protect others by placing the correct number in the box next to the figure. Then ask the students to place the correct shape in the box next to the people who use a gun safely in a sporting event.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Sometimes a gun is misplaced or we find it accidentally. We are going to read the story "The Box." While we read the story, think about what you would do.

Discussion Points

Present the story by using the PowerPoint slides. After reading the story ask the students:

- Did Mia and Johnny make the correct decision? (Answer – Yes)
- Was it right or wrong for Fred to have the gun? (Answer – Wrong)
- What was the right action for Fred to take? (Answer – Let an adult know he found a gun.)

Provide instruction to the children on "Finnigan the Fox Safety Rules" using the PowerPoint slide.

Ask the students what they think the adult should do once Mia and Johnny told her about the gun. Examples of student answers may include:

- Find Fred.
- Keep Mia and Johnny away from Fred and the gun.
- Call the police.

Teachers may explain to the students the following steps adults should follow: (1) reinforce the students for following "Finnigan the Fox Gun Safety Rules;" (2) ask the students to identify the location of the gun; (3) make sure the children are safe; (4) do not touch the gun; (5) do not allow anyone else near the gun; (6)call the local law enforcement authorities; and (7) do not leave the gun until it is properly secured by law enforcement authorities.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Finnigan the Fox wants all children to be safe. So, Finnigan the Fox says if you see a gun, Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; Let an Adult Know.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

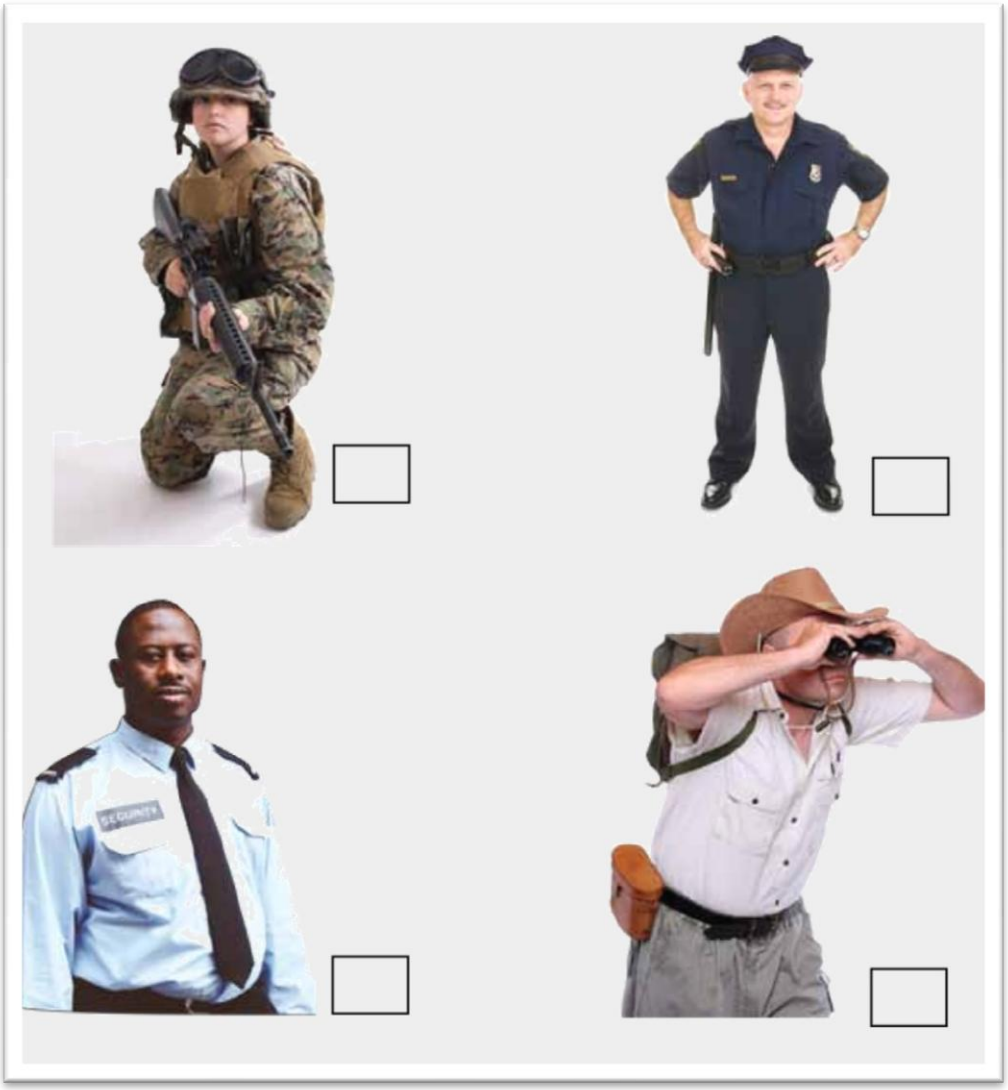
PEOPLE WHO USE GUNS TO PROTECT

Directions
Put a 1 in the box by the picture of the Security Guard.

Put a 2 in the box by the picture of the Police Officer.

Put a 3 in the box by the picture of the Park Ranger.

Put a 4 in the box by the picture of the Soldier.



(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

PEOPLE WHO SAFELY USE GUNS IN A SPORT

Directions

Put an O in the box by the picture of the person target shooting.

Put an X in the box by the picture of the person hunting.

(PowerPoint slide)

THE BOX

Johnny and Mia are riding bikes in their neighborhood.

(PowerPoint slide)

Johnny's older brother, Fred, rides towards them. Fred asks them if they want to see something.

(PowerPoint Slide)

The children get off their bikes. Fred opens his backpack and takes out a box. He removes the lid off the box, and there is a gun!

(PowerPoint Slide)

Mia tells Johnny they should leave the gun alone and not touch it. The children decide to leave and go tell an adult.

PowerPoint Slide)

Mia remembers learning in school when someone has a gun to: Leave it Alone! Leave the Area! Let an Adult Know!

(PowerPoint slide)

GUN SAFETY RULES

Finnigan the Fox says

LEAVE IT ALONE

LEAVE THE AREA

LET AN ADULT KNOW

SECOND GRADE

GUN SAFETY LESSON

Second Grade Lesson Profile

In activity one, students will explain the job each person has and why they may carry a gun. Students need to learn which community helpers may legally carry guns as a part of their jobs. The second activity reinforces the reason why certain jobs require guns.

According to the *Code of Virginia* § 18.2-308, personal protection; carrying concealed weapons; when lawful to carry states that those who carry a gun for their occupation or recreation may include law-enforcement officers, licensed security guards, and military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, or any person having a valid concealed handgun permit or any person engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting range or shooting contest.

The students will read "Andrew's Big Surprise," a gun safety story, and through a sequence of events conclude the importance of making a good choice if a gun is found. In the story, Sean's mom invites Sean's friends Antonio and Andrew over after school to play. Andrew is surprised to find a gun in Sean's parent's closet and must decide what to do next. The story events will help students learn the three gun safety rules: Leave It Alone, Leave the Area, Let an Adult Know.

Second Grade Lesson Objectives and Instructional Steps

Objective One
Students will learn why certain community helpers need to carry guns as part of their roles in the community.

Objective Two
Students will learn the difference between safe and unsafe situations if a gun is discovered.

1. Students will review the pictures of individuals who use guns from the PowerPoint slide and discuss why these people need guns for their jobs.

2. Each student will complete the multiple-choice activity from the PowerPoint slide "Carrying Guns is a Part of Their Jobs." Then review and discuss the answers. This activity can also be done in small groups.

3. Students will read aloud the story of Andrew's Big Surprise from the PowerPoint slide. Teachers may assign the characters in the story to a small group of students to play act.

4. Students will complete the discussion questions from the PowerPoint slide for Andrew's Big Surprise. Teachers will check for understanding of the material.

5. At the conclusion of the lesson, students will recite the rules for gun safety: Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; Let an Adult Know.

Second Grade Lesson Guidelines and Plans

Overview and Purpose Acquaint students with the rules of gun safety. Student will be able to: (1) identify community helpers who carry a gun as part of their jobs; (2) know what to do if they find a gun; and (3) identify who can help if a gun is discovered.			Standards of Learning Correlations English 2.2 oral language 2.8 reading
	Teacher Guide	Student Guide	
Objectives (Specify skills/information that will be learned.)	Students will learn why certain community helpers need to carry guns as a part of their roles in the community. Students will learn the difference between safe and unsafe situations when a gun is discovered.	Student will: (1) identify community helpers that carry a gun as part of their jobs; (2) know what to do if they find a gun; and (3) identify who can help if a gun is discovered.	Materials Needed Pencil Computer/LCD Activity Sheets • "Why Do These People Carry A Gun?" • "Carrying Guns is a Part of Their Jobs" PowerPoint Slides • "Andrew's Big Surprise" Story • Finnigan the Fox Gun Safety Poster Parent Notification Appendix A Finnigan the Fox Poster Appendix B
Information (Give and/or demonstrate necessary information.)	Teachers will provide instruction on gun safety rules. Teachers will guide students through a story and discussion questions.	Students will recognize individuals who should use guns safely. Students will read a story, and the rules for making a good decision if a gun is found, and conclude the right choice to make if a gun is discovered.	
Verification (Steps to check for student understanding)	Teachers may check for understanding through presentation of information from discussion groups.	Students will be able to determine what to do if they find a gun and identify who can help if a gun is discovered. Students will demonstrate mastery of the information through correct responses on activity sheets.	Other Resources
Activity (Describe the independent activity to reinforce this lesson.)	Teachers will inform parents about the gun safety lesson and the three gun safety rules, and provide resources and information on gun safety precautions.	Students will be instructed to share with parents the information learned in this lesson.	

Second Grade Teacher Suggested Script and Discussion Points

Suggested Script for Teacher

Today we are going to talk about gun safety. We may see guns being carried or used in many different ways. You may see them on police officers; you may see them on television or in a movie, or even in a sporting event. You may even see a misplaced gun.

Discussion Points

Discuss with the children different ways they may have seen someone using or carrying a gun. Some of the students' answers may include:

- Actors in movies or on television
- A video game
- A child may observe a parent or another adult hunting
- War enactments
- Hunting videos
- Sport programs involving target shooting
- Olympic shooting competitions

Verify Knowledge

Display "Why Do These People Carry a Gun?" and "Carrying Guns is a Part of Their Jobs" PowerPoint slides. Use the slides as activity sheets. Conduct a discussion to check for understanding of the reasons guns are used by specific community helpers.

Answers to "Carrying Guns is a Part of Their Jobs:" 1) A, 2) B, 3) C.

Discussion Points

Display the PowerPoint slides for the story "Andrew's Big Surprise" and discussion questions. Check for the students' understanding of what to do and who to go to for help if they were to find a gun.

Answers to "Andrew's Big Surprise" discussion questions: 1) Leave it alone, 2) Leave the area, 3) Let an adult know, 4) Leave it alone; leave the area; let an adult know.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Sometimes a child may find a gun, have a parent who is hunting, or know someone who has a gun in his or her home. Let's talk about some rules to follow if you find a gun or if someone shows you a gun.

Discussion Points

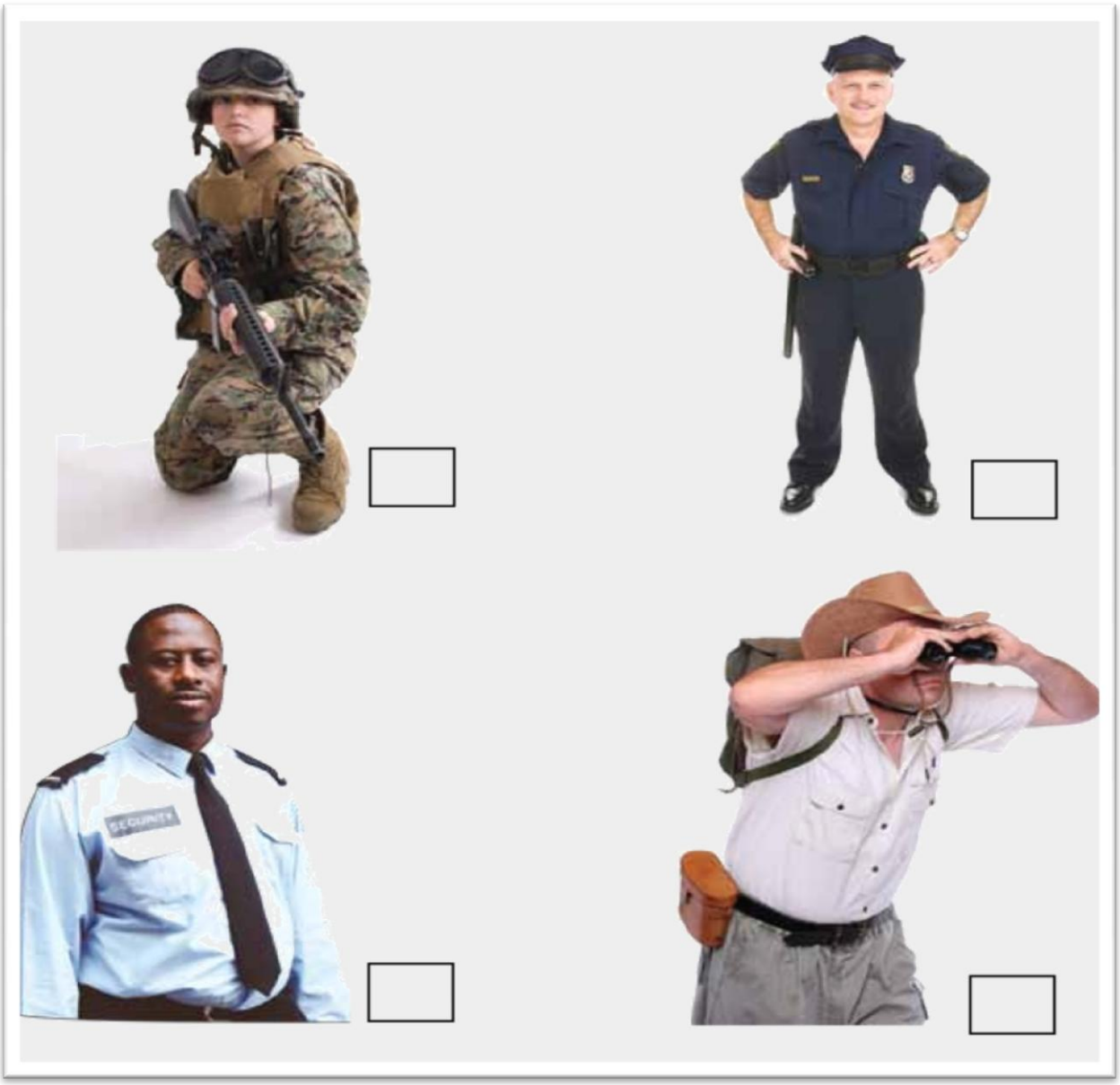
Ask the children what they think some gun safety rules should be. List them on a chart and discuss everyone's answer. Display "Gun Safety Rules and Extra Precautions" PowerPoint slide and compare with the students' list. Bring attention to the ones they did not list and discuss.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Finnigan the Fox wants all children to be safe. So, Finnigan the Fox says if you see a gun, Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; Let an Adult know.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

WHY DO THESE PEOPLE CARRY A GUN?



(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

CARRYING GUNS IS A PART OF THEIR JOBS

Directions

Circle the answer you think is correct.

1. Why would a Park Ranger carry a gun at work?
   A. To protect people from danger.
   B. To show the gun to park visitors.
   C. To build a tree house.

2. Why does a Police Officer need to carry a gun?
   A. To show people in the community.
   B. To protect the community against dangerous people.
   C. To make sure he/she is not late for work.

3. Why do Soldiers need to carry guns?
   A. To go hunting for wild animals.
   B. To help them travel farther.
   C. To help protect our country and our freedoms.

(PowerPoint slide)

ANDREW'S BIG SURPRISE

Sean has invited his friends Andrew and Antonio to come to his house after school to play.

(PowerPoint slide)

When the boys arrive at the house, Sean's mother is busy outside watering the new flowers in the yard.

(PowerPoint slide)

The boys go inside for a friendly game of hide-and-go-seek. Andrew decides to hide in the closet in the bedroom of Sean's parents.

PowerPoint slide)

While in the closet Andrew spots a box on the shelf and opens up the top. He is surprised to find a gun in the box! Andrew calls his friends to see what he has found.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

"Andrew's Big Surprise" Discussion Questions

1. What should the boys do with the gun now that they have found it?

2. Should the boys stay with the gun until Sean's mother comes inside?

3. Who should the boys call to make sure that the gun is safely put away?

(PowerPoint slide)

GUN SAFETY RULES

Finnigan the Fox says

LEAVE IT ALONE

LEAVE THE AREA

LET AN ADULT KNOW

THIRD GRADE

GUN SAFETY LESSON

Third Grade Lesson Profile

In activity one, students will read about the importance of gun safety. The emphasis involves the concept of real guns over make believe guns and their use. America has stressed throughout history that guns are used either for protection or in a sport, and that learning gun safety rules is very important.

Activity two emphasizes the rules all students should follow when they see or find a gun. Discussion should be pursued with the students to help them realize the dangers and the need for gun safety rules.

Activity three involves a series of questions designed for the students' understanding of the gun safety rules.

Third Grade Lesson Objectives and Instructional Steps

Objective One
Students will learn how guns are used safely in the community and for sport.

Objective Two
Students will learn gun safety rules and precautions for making a good choice if a gun is discovered.

Instructional Steps

1. Display "Guns and Personal Safety" PowerPoint slide; read either aloud or silently. This is an opportunity to review with students the school division's student code of conduct regarding bringing toy guns (or real) to school as a school safety rule.

2. Facilitate a student-generated list of gun safety rules. Then compare the students' list with the "Gun Safety Rules and More Precautions" PowerPoint slide and discuss the differences and similarities. Also, this exercise is intended to expand the students' knowledge of steps to avoid mishandling a gun.

3. Concluding the lesson, students will complete the true or false questions (which is done as an independent or class exercise) and write a paragraph on the importance of learning gun safety.

Third Grade Lesson Guidelines and Plans

Overview and Purpose Students will learn that guns may be used safely by law enforcement officers and military personnel for protection, and guns may be used in a sporting event. In contrast, students will learn the misuse of guns may lead to unintentional accidents or death. Students will learn the safety rules of what to do if they encounter a gun.			Standards of Learning Correlation English 3.1 oral language 3.3; 3.5 reading 3.9 writing
	Teacher Guide	Student Guide	
Objectives (Specify skills/information that will be learned.)	Students will learn that guns are used for protection and may be used in a sporting event but are not toys. Also, that the misuse of guns may result in accidents or death. Students will learn three gun safety rules to make a good choice if a gun is discovered.	Students will learn about: (1) the use of guns in history; (2) the misuse of a gun and resulting unintentional tragedy; and (3) gun safety rules and precautions.	Materials Needed Pencil Computer/LCD Activity Sheet • "Gun Safety True or False Questions" PowerPoint slides • "Guns and Personal Safety" • "Safety Rules and More Precautions" • "Gun Safety True or False Questions" Parent Notification Appendix A Finnegan the Fox Gun Safety Poster Appendix B Gun Safety Pledge Appendix C
Information (Give and/or demonstrate necessary information.)	Teachers will provide instruction on the safety rules for gun safety and help students recognize individuals who carry a gun for work or sport. Teachers will provide instruction on personal gun safety.	After reading a paragraph, students will be able to recognize individuals who may use guns safely. Students will be able to explain why individuals may use guns in the community. Students will recognize gun safety rules and precautions.	

Verification (Steps to check for student understanding)	Teachers will have students complete true and false questions, checking for understanding of material. Teachers will have students write a paragraph to explain gun safety and to check for understanding.	Students will demonstrate mastery of the information through correct responses on the Gun Safety – True or False Questions. Students will write a paragraph on the importance of gun safety. Students will be able to recite the three gun safety rules.	Other Resources
Activity (Describe the independent activity to reinforce this lesson)	Teachers will provide students with the gun safety pledge. Teachers will inform parents about the gun safety lesson and the three gun safety rules, and provide resources and information on gun safety.	Students will be given the opportunity to sign the gun safety pledge. Students will be instructed to share with parents the information learned in this lesson and the gun safety pledge.	

Third Grade Teacher Suggested Script and Discussion Points

Suggested Script for Teacher

Today we are going to talk about gun safety. We may see guns being carried or used in many different ways. You may see them on police officers; you may see them used on television, in a movie, or even in a sporting event.

Discussion Points

Discuss with the students different ways they may have seen someone using or carrying a gun. Answers may include:

- In a movie or from a television show
- On a video game
- Hunting with a parent who uses a gun
- War enactments
- Hunting videos
- Sport programs involving target shooting
- Olympic shooting competitions

Display and read the "Guns and Personal Safety" PowerPoint slide. This information describes the ways children may see guns and the appropriate use of guns in our society, such as protecting our country or people in our communities, and for sporting activities.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Sometimes a child may find a gun, hunt with a parent, or know someone who has a gun in his or her home. Let's talk about some rules that you should use if you find a gun or if someone that is not a trusted adult shows you a gun.

Discussion Points

Ask the students what they think some gun safety rules should be. List them on a chart and discuss everyone's answer. Display the "Safety Rules and More Precautions" PowerPoint slide. Read each one and compare it with the students' list of rules. Bring attention to the rules they did not list and discuss them.

Verifying Knowledge

Have the students complete the "Gun Safety – True or False Questions" from the PowerPoint slide and then write a paragraph on the importance of gun safety.
Answers to Gun Safety – True or False Questions. 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-T, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-T, 10-T

Suggested Script for Teacher

Finnigan the Fox wants all children to be safe. So, Finnigan the Fox says if you see a gun, Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; Let an Adult know.

(PowerPoint slide)

GUNS AND PERSONAL SAFETY

The use of guns may seem exciting when you see them on television, in the movies or, on a video game. But, in real life guns can be very dangerous, and because of the misuse of guns, people can be seriously hurt or killed.

Guns have played an important part in the history of America. Men and women have used guns to defend our freedom and protect our communities. Guns are also used for sport shooting and hunting. People who own or use guns as part of their jobs or in sports know how important it is to handle guns safely.

Guns are not toys and are very dangerous when people do not know the proper safety rules. Today you will learn a number of important safety rules to remember. If you ever see a gun without a trusted adult's supervision, then you will know what to do to stay safe.

(PowerPoint slide)

GUN SAFETY RULES AND MORE PRECAUTIONS

Finnigan says

If you see a gun or someone that has one

Leave it Alone

Leave the Area

Let an Adult Know

- If you come across a gun never touch it, pick it up, or handle it.
- If you see a gun always treat it as if it were loaded and dangerous.
- If your friend wants to show you a gun say **NO** and let an adult know.
- If you know someone who has brought a real or toy gun to school, let an adult know right away.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

GUN SAFETY – TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

Directions: Please circle true or false for the following questions.

1.	Guns are only for people who use them for their jobs.	True	False
2.	Guns can seriously injure or kill someone if not handled safely.	True	False
3.	All guns should be treated as if they were loaded.	True	False
4.	Hunting and sport shooting are responsible reasons for an adult to have a gun.	True	False
5.	It is never okay to point a gun at anyone, even if you were joking.	True	False
6.	Guns have been used in history to defend our freedom.	True	False
7.	If you find a gun, you should show it to your friends.	True	False
8.	If your friend shows you a gun, you should keep it a secret.	True	False
9.	You should never touch a gun you found.	True	False
10.	If you find a gun, you should let an adult know.	True	False

FOURTH GRADE

GUN SAFETY LESSON

Fourth Grade Lesson Profile

In activity one, students will learn about influential Americans who died because of gun violence.
The following national figures are discussed in the activity.

- Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States of America. He served from 1861 until 1865. His key accomplishments include leading the Union during the Civil War and signing the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which freed the slaves in the Confederacy. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, at the close of the American Civil War. He was shot by John Wilkes Booth while watching a play at the Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

- John F. Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States of America. He served from 1961 until 1963. He was the youngest person to be elected president. He was a strong advocate for civil rights legislation. His presidency ended when he was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald on November 22, 1963, while riding in a presidential motorcade in Dallas, Texas.

- Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. His leadership initiated change in a racially segregated American society. His famous "I Have a Dream Speech," which further empowered the Civil Rights Movement, was delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated by James Earl Ray on April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his hotel room where he was to lead a protest march in Memphis, Tennessee.

In activity two, students will learn about these American heroes, the influence they had on American society, and the impact of their death by gun violence. Students will independently write a paragraph on the contributions of one of the famous men and the impact of his death on our society.

In this lesson, students will also learn about the impact of gun violence on the community.
In activity three, students will write five gun safety rules they think are important to follow in their community.

Fourth Grade Objectives and Instructional Steps

Objective One
Students will learn about the negative influence of gun violence on American society.

Objective Two
Students will learn gun safety is everyone's job.

Instructional Steps

1. Students learn the harmful effects from the inappropriate use of a gun and the resulting tragic consequences.

2. Students will discuss the impact Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr. had on our society and their resulting deaths. January or February is a suggested month for teaching this lesson.

3. Students will discuss the commonality between the three famous men and the need for gun safety. After the discussion, students will independently write a paragraph on the contributions of one of the famous men and the impact of his death on our society.

4. Students will read the PowerPoint slide, "Gun Safety is Everyone's Job" to learn about the results of gun violence and the need for gun safety.

5. Students will complete the lesson by breaking into small groups. Each group will create a list of safety rules. After all the groups have finished, each group will share its list, and a class list of gun safety rules will be created.

Fourth Grade Lesson Guidelines and Plans

Overview and Purpose	Standards of Learning Correlation
Students will learn the influence of gun violence on society. Students will learn that gun safety is everyone's job.	English 4.1 oral language 4.5 reading 4.7 writing Health Education 4.3 knowledge and skill History HSS 3.11 VA 7a VA 7b

	Teacher Guide	Student Guide	

Objectives
(Specify skills/information that will be learned.)
	Students will learn the influence of gun violence on society.
	
	Students will learn gun safety is everyone's job.
		Students will learn about the life of three influential people and the tragedy of the loss of their lives because of gun violence.
		
		Students will learn the three gun safety rules and that gun safety is everyone's job.
			Materials Needed
			Pencils/paper
			Computer/LCD
			
			PowerPoint
			• "The Influence of Violence on Society"
			  • Famous Men –"Part A"
			  • Directions for writing paragraph – "Part B "
			• "Gun Safety is Everyone's Job"
			• "Gun Safety You Decide"
			
			Parent Notification
			Appendix A
			
			Finnegan the Fox Gun Safety Poster
			Appendix B
			
			Gun Safety Pledge
			Appendix C

Information (Give and/or demonstrate necessary information.)	Teachers will provide instruction for students on the influence of gun violence on society and reinforce that gun safety is everyone's job.	Students will become aware of the negative influence of gun violence on society. Students will write a paragraph on the contributions of one of the famous men and the impact his death had on society. Students will write five rules they think are important regarding gun safety.	
Verification (Steps to check for student understanding)	Teachers may check for understanding through oral communication.	Students will describe the influence of gun violence on society. Students will demonstrate mastery of the information through correct/appropriate responses on activity sheets.	Other Resources

Activity (Describe the independent activity to reinforce this lesson)	Teachers will provide students with the gun safety pledge. Teachers will inform parents about the gun safety lesson and the three gun safety rules, and provide resources and information on gun safety precautions.	Students will be given the opportunity to sign the gun safety pledge. Students will be instructed to share with parents the information learned in this lesson and the gun safety pledge.	

Fourth Grade Teacher Suggested Script and Discussion Points

Teacher Suggested Script

Today we are going to talk about gun safety. Gun safety to protect children and others is not just a responsibility for adults. Each of you needs to hold each other accountable for following firearm safety rules. The violence that could occur from not respecting the rules of gun safety could change your life, my life, and the lives of many. The violence from not using guns in a proper way could also change the course of history.

Discussion Points

Show the PowerPoint slide of the three famous Americans, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and discuss with the students what these men had in common. Examples of students' answers may include:

- Leaders in our country
- Presidents
- Killed by gunfire

Each one of these great Americans made a lasting difference in our society but they also had their lives cut short by gun violence.

Have the students individually write a paragraph on one of the famous Americans and the impact their lives had on others and review the paragraphs as a class. Then ask the students to share their ideas on how history may have been different if these famous men's lives had not been cut short by gun violence. (All answers may be accepted under the guidelines of a positive impact they may have had on our country.)

Teacher Suggested Script

Our community needs gun safety rules for all youth to follow. Today we are going to discuss some rules you feel all students should follow any time they find a gun.

Discussion Points

Display the PowerPoint slide "Gun Safety is Everyone's Job" and read the paragraphs that share the impact of gun violence in our society. Ask the children what they think gun safety rules should be. List them on a chart and accept everyone's answer.

Verify Knowledge

Pass out the gun safety "You Decide" activity sheet. Organize the students into groups and ask them to create a list of rules for the community to follow to help keep all children and youth safe. Have students share their ideas with the other groups. As a classroom activity, ask the children to choose the five most important gun safety rules for the community from the list created by the class.

The following concepts are important to incorporate into community rules:

- If you find a gun anywhere, STOP! Leave it alone. Don't let anyone touch it. Leave the area. Let an adult know.
- If a gun looks like a toy, don't touch it. Some real guns may look like toy guns, so don't take a chance. Leave the area and immediately tell an adult.

- If you suspect someone has a gun at school or another public area and he or she does not look like a community helper, tell a trusted adult.
- If you need help, call 911 immediately.

Teacher Suggested Script

Finnigan the Fox wants all children to be safe. So, Finnigan the Fox says if you see a gun, Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; Let an Adult Know.

(PowerPoint slide)

THE INFLUENCE OF GUN VIOLENCE ON SOCIETY PART A

What do the following famous men have in common?

Abraham Lincoln

John F. Kennedy

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each one of these great Americans made a lasting difference in our society but their lives were cut short by gun violence.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

THE INFLUENCE OF GUN VIOLENCE ON SOCIETY PART B

Directions:

Write a paragraph on the contributions of one of these famous men and the impact of his death on our society.

Abraham Lincoln

John F. Kennedy

Martin Luther King, Jr.

(PowerPoint slide)

GUN SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S JOB

Each year in the United States thousands of people are injured or killed by gunfire. The real tragedy in these numbers is that a number of the deaths are children who mishandle or play with guns. Unlike the movies and popular video games, people who are injured by gunfire see their lives change forever. Families who lose children from gunshot deaths are forever impacted.

Gun injuries and deaths can be prevented if everyone would follow several important gun safety rules. Gun safety is everyone's job from parents to community leaders to each student in a school. Today you will have the chance to share how you can make your community safer by understanding the potential harm that guns can cause and by following safety rules.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

GUN SAFETY "YOU DECIDE"

Directions:

You have been asked by your community to provide a list of gun safety rules for students. Provide five (5) basic rules you feel will be important.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

FIFTH GRADE

GUN SAFETY LESSON

Fifth Grade Lesson Profile

In activity one, students will learn that gun safety involves an "attitude" about guns. The attitude conveys respect for an object that is dangerous and supports the belief that gun safety training is a good practice for anyone who may use a gun. A continued respectful "attitude" and the practice of gun safety prevents unintentional gun accidents. To reinforce this material, students will answer multiple-choice questions in activity two about gun safety and the community.

As a culmination of all the gun safety rules learned from grades kindergarten through grade five, fifth-grade students will sign the pledge to commit to preventing gun violence. This pledge may be put on a bulletin board along with personalized student-created posters displaying understanding and commitment to gun safety.

Fifth Grade Lesson Objectives and Instructional Steps

Objective One
Students will learn gun safety is an intentional practice that can help prevent gun accidents, injuries and deaths.

Objective Two
Students will develop steps to promote gun safety in the community and demonstrate a commitment to prevent gun violence.

Instructional Steps

1. Students will be able to recognize myths that may lead to the misuse and abuse of handling guns.

2. Display and read the PowerPoint slide "Gun Safety and You" PowerPoint slide. Engage students by using the "Gun Safety and You Discussion Questions and Assignment" on the PowerPoint slide.

3. Students will divide into groups and discuss the three questions to the activity "What should you do if...?" Upon completion, students will share and discuss their answers aloud. Students will acknowledge what should be done if they find a gun or know of a peer who has a gun.

Students will conclude this lesson by acknowledging the importance of gun safety. Each student will read and sign a pledge to respect guns and create a poster that promotes gun safety rules. The teacher may want to display the posters and pledges on a bulletin board in the school.

Fifth Grade Lesson Guidelines and Plans

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Overview and Purpose
Students will recognize the importance of their own attitudes and practice of gun safety rules in avoiding unintentional accidents or deaths.

Students will begin to accept responsibility for contributing to safe gun practices in their community.</td><td>Standards of Learning Correlation
English
5.1 oral language
5.6 reading
Health Education
5.1 knowledge and skill
5.5 community health and wellness</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Teacher Guide</td><td>Student Guide</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Objectives
(Specify skills/information that will be learned.)</td><td>Students will learn gun safety is an intentional practice and a way to help prevent gun accidents.
Students will develop a pledge to keep communities safe.</td><td>Students will understand that they play important roles as leaders and decision makers when it comes to gun safety.

Students will know the gun safety rules.</td><td rowspan="2">Materials Needed
Poster-making materials
Computer/LCD

Activity Sheets/ PowerPoint slides
• "Gun Safety and You"
• "Gun Safety and You" Discussion Questions and Assignment
• "What Should You Do If..."

Parent Notification Appendix A

Gun Safety Poster Appendix B

Gun Safety Pledge Appendix C</td></tr>
<tr><td>Information
(Give and/or demonstrate necessary information.)</td><td>Teachers provide instruction for students on the importance of gun safety and their roles as leaders and decision makers.</td><td>Students will understand the importance of making good choices when it comes to gun safety.

Students will divide into small groups and present to the class their decision-making steps towards gun safety for each scenario.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Verification
(Steps to check for student understanding)</td><td>Teachers may check for understanding through oral communication and through the signing of a personal gun safety pledge.</td><td>Students will understand the roles they play as contributors and decision makers when it comes to preventing gun accidents, injuries or deaths.

Students will demonstrate mastery of the information through correct activity responses.</td><td>Other Resources</td></tr>
</table>

Activity (Describe the independent activity to reinforce this lesson.)	Teachers will inform parents about the gun safety lesson and the three gun safety rules, and provide resources and information on gun safety precautions.	Students will sign a pledge with their commitments to gun safety and make a gun safety poster. Students will be instructed to share with parents the information learned in this lesson.	

Fifth Grade Teacher Suggested Script and Discussion Points

Suggested Script for Teacher

Today we are going to talk about gun safety. Gun safety rules help to prevent accidents. Gun safety starts with each and every one of you and your pledge to keep our community safe.

Discussion Points

Display the PowerPoint slide "Gun Safety and You" and read aloud the information. Use the "Gun Safety and You" discussion questions to engage students in critical thinking about gun safety. As a classroom or small group activity, ask the students to develop steps for promoting gun safety in the community, and share and discuss their answers.

The following concepts are important to incorporate into developing steps for promoting gun safety.

- If you find a gun anywhere, STOP! Leave it alone. Don't let anyone touch it. Leave the area. Let an adult know.
- If a gun looks like a toy, don't touch it. Some real guns may look like toy guns, so don't take a chance. Leave the area and immediately tell an adult.
- If you suspect someone has a gun at school or another public area and he or she does not look like a community helper, tell a trusted adult.
- If you need help, call 911 immediately.

Verifying Knowledge

Students will share their answers to "Gun Safety and You" questions and the assignment.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Students are leaders and contributing members in keeping our community safe. The following scenarios displayed on the PowerPoint slide "What Should You Do If..." describe a situation that requires the application of good decision-making. In your group, read the scenarios and for each situation answer: (a) Who should you tell; and (b) What will be the results of your actions? Be prepared to discuss your group's answers with the class.

Verifying Knowledge

Students will share their answers to "What Should You Do If..."

Suggested Script for Teacher (Pass out the Finnigan the Fox pledge and poster materials)

Let's read the pledge out loud as a class. By making this pledge you are making a commitment to yourself and our community. Please take out your poster materials and construct a poster that portrays your commitment to promoting gun safety in our community.

Discussion Points

Ask students what it means to them to have made this commitment and how it can help their community.

Suggested Script for Teacher

Finnigan the Fox wants all children to be safe. So, Finnigan the Fox says if you see a gun, Leave it Alone. Leave the Area. Let an adult know.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

GUN SAFETY AND YOU

Some people may think guns are cool and exciting. For some people they represent a source of power. For others toy guns serve as a form of entertainment in video games, but in reality guns are serious and should be respected. The respect begins with following the gun safety rules.

Some individuals across America misuse and abuse the firing and shooting of guns. This abuse of guns leads to senseless and preventable violence.

Each year in the United States tragedy strikes within a local city or town when a gun is mishandled or fired accidentally. In a number of these situations the life of a young person ends. There is no possibility of that person reaching his or her dreams because of the mishandling of a gun.

Gun safety is a way to prevent serious injuries or the loss of a life. Gun safety begins with you and starts with your pledge to help make your community safe.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity Sheet

GUN SAFETY AND YOU

Discussion Questions

- What are some examples of how the wrong attitude towards guns may contribute to gun violence?
- What is meant by "respecting a gun?"
- What are some examples of not respecting a gun?

_____

Assignment
As a group, decide on some steps for promoting gun safety to keep our communities safe.

(PowerPoint slide)
Activity sheet

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF...

Directions

Read the following situations. Use the questions at the bottom of the page for each scenario, and prepare to discuss them with the class.

1. Your best friend has found a gun at the park and decides to hide it and not tell anyone.

2. Your parents are out of town and you are at home with your older brother who invited a friend over. The friend shows you a gun and states it belongs to his father.

3. Your best friend at school has been bullied for over a week by a student in another class. He has stated that he plans to bring a gun to school to scare the bully.

_____

a. Who should you tell?

b. What will be the results of your actions?

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

References

Division of Prevention and Health Promotion
Virginia Department of Health
109 Governor Street, 8th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Phone: 804-864-7732
Fax: 804-864-7748
Web site: http://www.vahealth.org/prevention

Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program
The *Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program* began in 1988, based on the principles of accident prevention by promoting protection and safety of children throughout the country. The gun safety rules that are reinforced if a child encounters a gun are, "If you see a gun: STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult."
National Rifle Association of America
1250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
Web site http://www.nrahq.org/safety/eddie/.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd.
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
Phone: 1-800-232-4636
Web site: http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/YV-DataSheet-a.pdf

National Education Association Health Information Network
1201 16th Street, NW #216
Washington, DC 20036-3290
Phone: 202-822-7570
Fax: 202-822-7775
Web site: http://crisisguide.neahin.org/programs/schoolsafety/gunsafety/statistics.htm

National School Safety Center
141 Duesenberg Drive, Suite 7B
Westlake Village, CA 91362
Web site: (http://www.schoolsafety.us/)

Virginia Department of Education *Discipline, Crime, and Violence Annual Report*
School Year 2008-2009
Virginia Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120
Phone: 804-321-7586

Web site:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/school_climate/discipline_crime_violence/08_annual_report.pdf

Virginia Youth Violence Project
School of Education, University of Virginia
405 Emmet Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904
Phone: 434-924-8929
Web site: http://youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu/violence-in-schools/virginia-statistics.html

Resources

Virginia Student Conduct Policy Guidelines 2009
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/guidance/safety/student_conduct.pdf

Common Sense about Kids and Guns is a public education organization dedicated to providing all adults with the necessary information to empower them to protect their children from unsupervised access to guns. Web site: http://kidsandguns.org

The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of major gun laws including those related to child access prevention and minimum purchase and possession age. Web site:
http://www.jhsph.edu/gunpolicy/index.html

Kids Health – Gun Safety for Parents
http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/gun_safety.html

YourChild Development and Behavior Resources
A Guide to Information & Support for Parents
University of Michigan Health System
http://www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/guns.htm#comm

APPENDICES

Sample Parent Notification - Appendix A

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your student's class will be introduced to safety rules to prevent gun accidents within the near future. The purpose of the lesson is to keep students safe by providing simple steps for them to follow if they should encounter a gun without a trusted adult's supervision. The lesson is based on the premise that all community members want to protect students from gun accidents, unintentional related injuries or deaths. The rules and principles of firearm safety and accident prevention are the basis for the development of the lesson.

There is a different lesson for each grade level from kindergarten through fifth grade. The lessons are designed to provide students with simple steps to follow should they encounter a gun while alone or with other children.

The kindergarten through second grade lessons assist students in recognizing professionals who use guns for safety reasons and individuals who safely use guns in sporting events. Students will learn the following safety rules if they were to find a gun: leave it alone; leave the area; let an adult know.

The third- through fifth-grade lessons continue to focus on what to do if a student were to find a gun and address the consequences of gun violence, and personal responsibility for gun safety in the community. In addition, a student pledge to follow the rules to prevent gun accidents, related injuries, and deaths is encouraged.

In each lesson, the character "Finnigan the Fox" is present as the safety mascot. This character is used to reinforce the message that if a student sees a gun to "Leave it Alone; Leave the Area; and Let an Adult Know." After each lesson, students are encouraged to share what they learned with their parents.

Information on gun safety and gun safety precautions may be found on the Virginia Department of Health Web site at http://www.vahealth.org/injury/topics/gunsafety/index.htm . To review the *Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum* please go to the Virginia Department of Education Web site at _____ or at your student's school. For more specific questions regarding your student's class instruction of this material, please contact the school.

Gun Safety Poster - Appendix B

Gun Safety Pledge – Appendix C

I PLEDGE TO BE AS SMART AS FINNIGAN THE FOX BY:

- HELPING my community by practicing gun safety
- NEVER playing with guns
- TREATING every gun as if it were loaded
- NEVER threatening anyone with a gun
- NEVER pointing a gun at anyone
- NEVER bringing a toy or real gun to school
- REPORTING those who do

IF I FIND A GUN I WILL:

- LEAVE IT ALONE
- LEAVE THE AREA
- LET AN ADULT KNOW

_____ _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE TRUSTED ADULT SIGNATURE

Code of Virginia - Appendix D

The following sections from the *Code of Virginia* are mentioned in the *Elementary School Gun Safety Guidelines and Curriculum.* In addition, an excerpt from § 22.1-277.07 of the *Code of Virginia* describes the exceptions for allowing guns on school property or at a school-sponsored event. The *Code* may be found in detail on the Virginia General Assembly Legislative Information System Web site at http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm .

§ 22.1-204.1. Firearm safety education program.

> Local school boards may provide firearm safety education programs for students in the elementary school grades. To assist local school boards electing to provide firearm safety education programs, the Board of Education shall establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized program of firearm safety education for the elementary school grades to promote the protection and safety of children enrolled in the public schools. The curriculum guidelines shall incorporate, among other principles of firearm safety, accident prevention and the rules upon which the *Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program* offered by the National Rifle Association is based. Local school boards electing to provide firearm safety education shall offer instruction pursuant to the Board's curriculum guidelines and shall integrate firearm safety education into appropriate subject areas, if feasible, to ensure that every elementary grade student completes the course of study in firearm safety education.

§ 18.2-308. *Personal protection; carrying concealed weapons; when lawful to carry.*

This section of the Code specifies when carrying a concealed weapon is lawful. Those who can carry a gun for their occupation or recreation include law-enforcement officers, licensed security guards, and military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, or any person having a valid concealed handgun permit or to any person engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting range or shooting contest.

§ 22.1-277.07. *Expulsion of students under certain circumstances; exceptions. Sections D and F of this section describe the exceptions as follows:*

> ...D. No school operating a Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program shall prohibit the JROTC program from conducting marksmanship training when such training is a normal element of such programs. Such

programs may include training in the use of pneumatic guns. The administration of a school operating a JROTC program shall cooperate with the JROTC staff in implementing such marksmanship training....

F. The exemptions set out in § 18.2-308 regarding concealed weapons shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the provisions of this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to persons who possess such firearms or firearms or pneumatic guns as part of the curriculum or other programs sponsored by the schools in the school division or any organization permitted by the school to use its premises or to any law-enforcement officer while engaged in his duties as such....