

Scott and Anna were born and raised in Montana. Like many Montana kids, they have parents who own guns. Guns can be very dangerous if they are misused by anyone.

When Scott and Anna were very young, too young to understand and follow safety instructions, their parents had to lock up the guns where they couldn't be reached. Their parents had to **kid-proof the guns**.

Finally, the time came for Scott and Anna to learn about safety; not to play with electrical outlets, not to ride their bikes in the street, and not to touch or handle their parents' guns. Then it was time to **gun-proof the kids**. Scott and Anna's parents taught them the first rules of gun safety.

Those are:

- **DON'T TOUCH.** Never touch or handle a real gun without a parent's permission.
- **IF A FRIEND PLAYS WITH A REAL GUN, LEAVE AND TELL AN ADULT.** If you are ever at a friend's house and your friend should touch or handle one of their parents' real guns, you must leave immediately. Just get up and walk out the door and tell an adult.

These are the most important first two steps to gunproofing a kid. Scott and Anna learned these two rules by heart. Let's try these rules again.

- **DON'T TOUCH.**
- **IF A FRIEND PLAYS WITH A REAL GUN, LEAVE AND TELL AN ADULT.**

As they grew older, their parents knew the time would come for Scott and Anna to get their first real guns, BB guns. So their parents began to teach them the rules for safe gun handling.

Those are:

- **ALL GUNS ARE LOADED.** Always assume that EVERY gun is loaded, even if you have just checked to see if it is unloaded. Always assume that every gun is loaded.
- **MUZZLE DIRECTION.** Never point a gun at a person, or anything you don't intend to shoot. The front end of the gun is called the muzzle, just like the front end of a dog is called its muzzle. With guns, ALWAYS be careful about muzzle direction. NEVER point your gun's muzzle toward another person or something you don't intend to shoot.
- **FINGER OFF TRIGGER.** If you are shooting, always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

Scott and Anna's parents made them practice using safe muzzle direction and finger off the trigger with their toy guns to create good habits. Anna and Scott learned the rules by heart. They could repeat the rules anytime their parents asked them. What are the rules? Let's try them again:

- **ALL GUNS ARE LOADED.**
- **MUZZLE DIRECTION.**
- **FINGER OFF TRIGGER.**

Finally, when their parents thought they were both responsible enough, Scott and Anna got their first BB guns. Scott named his gun Betsy, just like Davey Crockett did with his favorite rifle. Anna named hers One Eye, because she squinted one eye shut when she aimed.

Anna and Scott could only use their BB guns when their parents were home to give permission and supervise. Their dad got them both special shooting glasses to wear to protect their eyes. They always had to remember to follow the rules