Learning Guide

Gun Safety

We hope you enjoyed learning all about staying safe around guns. Extend your learning with this print-ready Learning Guide!

What's in this Learning Guide?

Get Set to Listen
Answer TRUE or FALSE statements before and after listening to the episode.

Vocabulary

Discussion Questions
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3-8.1, SL.3-8.3

Writing Prompts
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3-8.1, W.3-8.2, W.3-8.3, W.3-8.4, W.3-8.7, W.3-8.8

Quick Activities
National Health Education Standards 1, 3, 5, 7, & 8; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3-8.2

Gun Safety Myths vs. Facts
National Health Education Standards 1, 3, 5, 7, & 8; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3-8.2; CASEL: Responsible Decision-Making & Self-Management

Real or Pretend? Activity
National Health Education Standards 1, 3, 5, 7, & 8; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3-8.2

Gun Safety Scenarios
National Health Education Standards 1, 3, 5, 7, & 8; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3-8.2; CASEL: Responsible Decision-Making & Self-Management

Gun Safety Poster
National Health Education Standards 1, 3, 5, 7, & 8; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3-8.2, SL.3-8.4

Identify Trusted Adults: Activity

Youth Voices for Safety: Activity
National Health Education Standard 8; CCSS.ELA.LITERACY.W.3-8.1

Additional Resources & Book List

The Children's Hour
kids public radio

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https://www.childrenshour.org/gun-safety/

Get Set to Listen

1. Before listening!

Read each statement and write TRUE or FALSE based on what you already know.

2. After listening!

Based on what the experts said in the episode, write TRUE or FALSE.

Before Listening	TRUE or FALSE?	After Listening
	1. Children do not need to learn about gun safety unless their families own guns.	
	2. Every firearm should be assumed to be loaded.	
	3. Children should touch a gun they find to check whether it is safe.	
	4. Children should move away from a gun they find and tell a trusted adult.	
	5. Adults should lock up firearms to prevent children from accessing them.	
	6. Toy guns and real guns are always easy to tell apart.	
	7. Gun laws are the same in every country.	

What did you learn?

_____

_____

_____

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Get Set to Listen

Answer key

1. FALSE. Everyone can benefit from knowing how to stay safe around guns.
2. TRUE
3. FALSE. Children should never touch a gun they find.
4. TRUE
5. TRUE
6. FALSE. Some real guns can look like toys, making them difficult to tell apart.
7. FALSE. Gun laws vary among countries and jurisdictions.

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Listen

Use these Shorts clips in the classroom or anytime you want to learn more about a specific topic we talked about in the **full-length Children's Hour Gun Safety episode**!

- **Part 1: Why Do We All Need to Learn About Gun Safety?**
  - **(segment 9:16-14:17)**
- **Part 2: Understanding Gun Danger**
  - **(segment 20:07-24:55)**
- **Part 3: Gun Safety Basics & De-escalation**
  - **(segment 29:00-31:23)**
- **Part 4: Kids Who Hunt**
  - **(segment 35:49-38:52)**
- **Part 5: Gun Violence Prevention Education: What Can You Do?**
  - **(segment 42:30-46:51)**
- **Part 6: Gun Laws & Preventing Gun Violence**
  - **(segment 50:08-52:33)**

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Vocabulary

Listening for Words

1. Make a four-column chart and label the columns “I don’t know,” “I’ve seen or heard, but don’t know the meaning,” “I think I know the meaning,” and “I know the meaning.”
2. Write the vocabulary word in the column that describes how well you know the meaning of the word.
3. Listen to **the episode**. Note how the speaker uses the words.

Matching Words with Definitions

1. Print and cut apart the word and definition cards.
2. Spread out the word cards so you can see them all. One by one, attach a definition card to each word card.

Writing with New Words

After working with the words and definitions, write a one-page essay or story that uses at least three of the words.

firearm	Another word for “gun”.
loaded	When a gun contains ammunition and is capable of firing.

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Vocabulary

secure	To keep something safely protected so others cannot easily reach it.
ammunition	The materials, such as bullets, used in firearms.
prevention	Taking steps to reduce the chance of injuries and violence.
advocate	Using your voice to encourage safer communities.

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Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a gun when you've been out and about in public?
2. Why is it important for children to learn about gun safety even if their families do not own guns?
3. What should a child do if they discover a gun in a home or another place?
4. Why is it important to assume that every gun is loaded?
5. Why should children avoid touching a gun, even if they think it is unloaded or looks like a toy?
6. Why might a real gun designed to look like a toy be especially dangerous?
7. Why might people have different opinions about guns depending on where they live or how they grew up?
8. Why might people have different ideas about which gun laws would be most effective?
9. How can people have respectful conversations about a topic that may bring up fear, sadness, or disagreement?

Group Discussion Strategies

Think Pair Share:
1. Individually, student writes down their answer to a question.
2. Students pair up and tell each other their answers.
3. Teacher calls for volunteers to share with the whole class their answer (and/or their partner's answer). Teacher notes key words/phrases on board.

Round Robin:
1. Teacher poses one question (written on top of a large page) to students, who are assembled into small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Students take turns brainstorming the answers. The recorder of the group writes down all answers.
3. The leader reads the group's ideas to the entire class. Teacher moderates.

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Writing Prompts

Narrative Prompts

1. Imagine you are visiting a friend's house when you discover a gun that has been left unsecured. Write a story about what happens next and how you make a safe decision.

2. Write a fictional story about two friends whose families have different experiences with guns. One family hunts, while the other worries about gun violence. Show how the friends learn to understand each other.

Informational/Expository Prompts

1. Explain why children need to learn about gun safety, even if their families do not own guns.

2. Describe the safety steps children should take if they discover an unattended firearm. Explain why each step matters.

3. Explain how countries can have different approaches to firearm ownership and safety regulations. Use examples from the transcript and additional reliable sources.

4. Explain why objects that resemble firearms can create confusion and why children should never assume that a gun is a toy based on its appearance.

Opinion/Persuasive Prompts

1. Should gun safety education be a required part of school or community education? State your opinion and support it with reasons.

2. What can individuals, families, and communities do to help keep children safe around firearms, and which responsibility do you believe is most important? Explain your answer using evidence from the episode.

3. Persuade readers that stronger firearm regulations are—or are not—an effective way to reduce gun violence. Support your position with evidence and acknowledge an opposing viewpoint.

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Quick Activities

These activities work well as warm-ups or short follow-up activities.

Listen

- Part 1: Why Do We ALL Need to Learn About Gun Safety? (segment 9:16-14:17)
- Part 2: Understanding Gun Danger (segment 20:07-24:55)
- Part 3: Gun Safety Basics & De-escalation (segment 29:00-31:23)

Finish the Sentence

- “If I see a gun, I will…”
- “An adult I can ask for help is…”

Safety Song

Create a simple rhythm or chant using the three gun safety rules:

1. Don't touch
2. Walk away
3. Tell a trusted adult

Feelings Check-In

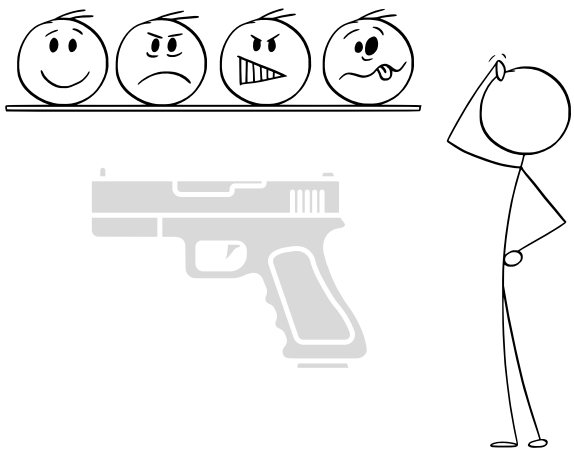
Listen

- Part 2: Understanding Gun Danger (segment 20:07-24:55)
- Part 4: Kids Who Hunt (segment 35:49-38:52)

Name feelings that might come up when discussing guns, such as fear, confusion, or curiosity. You don’t have to share if you don’t want to.

Extend

Draw your feelings about guns.



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Gun Safety Myths vs. Facts

Listen

- Part 1: Why Do We ALL Need to Learn About Gun Safety? (segment 9:16-14:17)
- Part 2: Understanding Gun Danger (segment 20:07-24:55)
- Part 3: Gun Safety Basics & De-escalation (segment 29:00-31:23)

Safety Myth or Fact

Read the following statements about firearm safety and have participants decide whether each is safe or unsafe behavior. Discuss the answer afterward.

Myth 1: If a gun looks like a toy, it must be safe.
FACT: Some real guns look like toys, and some toy guns look realistic. Never touch a gun you find, even if it looks fake.

Myth 2: It's okay to pick up a gun if no one is around.
FACT: Never touch, pick up, or play with a gun. Move away and tell a trusted adult immediately.

Myth 3: If my friend says the gun is unloaded, I can hold it.
FACT: Never trust a friend's claim that a gun is unloaded. Do not handle it. Walk away and alert a responsible adult.

Myth 4: I should touch a gun if my friends dare me.
FACT: You can always say no. Leave the area, encourage friends to move away, and tell a trusted adult. Your safety matters more than fitting in.

Myth 5: Guns kept at home cannot hurt children.
FACT: A gun can cause serious injury or death, even at home. Adults should keep firearms locked and inaccessible to children and teenagers.

Myth 6: Telling an adult about a gun means you're tattling.
FACT: Reporting an unsafe situation is responsible, not tattling. Tell a parent, teacher, school counselor, or another trusted adult.

Myth 7: Guns in video games and online videos work like real guns.
FACT: Games and videos do not always show the real dangers of firearms. Real guns can cause permanent injuries or death and should never be treated as toys.

Myth 8: I need to move a gun to keep someone else from finding it.
FACT: Do not move or hide it. Leave it where it is, move away, and alert a trusted adult. If there is immediate danger, get to safety and call emergency services.

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Sources: CDC & American Academy of Pediatrics

Real or Pretend?

It's not always easy to tell the difference between real guns and toy guns.

Listen

- Part 2: Understanding Gun Danger
  - segment 20:07-24:55

Watch

Real Guns Made to Look Like Toys



The gun on top is a real Glock 9 mm. The gun on the bottom is a toy.
image source

Can you tell which of these guns are real and which are toys? Click on the "image source" link below each image to check your guess and read more about it.



image source



image source



image source



image source

NEVER approach an unfamiliar object that looks like a gun! Find a trusted adult to help.

Discuss

- *Why do toy guns and real firearms sometimes look alike?*
- *Why should children never approach or handle an unfamiliar object that looks like a gun?*

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Gun Safety Scenarios

Listen

- Part 1: Why Do We ALL Need to Learn About Gun Safety? (segment 9:16-14:17)
- Part 2: Understanding Gun Danger (segment 20:07-24:55)
- Part 3: Gun Safety Basics & De-escalation (segment 29:00-31:23)

Read the following scenarios and explain what you would do:

1. You notice something that looks like a gun under your dad's bed. *What should you do, and why?*
2. A friend dares you to touch a firearm. *What do you say to them?*
3. You feel uncomfortable because someone is carrying a gun nearby. *What steps could you take to help yourself feel safe?*
4. You are visiting a friend's house and discover a gun in a drawer. *How could you respond?*
5. You want to ask another child's parents whether firearms are present in their home and safely secured. *How could you or your caregiver start that conversation?*
6. A friend tells you that a gun is unloaded and asks you to hold it. *What do you do?*

For every scenario involving a firearm, the central safety rule is the same:

Do not touch it. Move away, and tell a trusted adult.

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Gun Safety Poster Design

Listen

- Part 1: Why Do We ALL Need to Learn About Gun Safety? (segment 9:16-14:17)
- Part 2: Understanding Gun Danger (segment 20:07-24:55)
- Part 3: Gun Safety Basics & De-escalation (segment 29:00-31:23)
- Part 5: Gun Violence Prevention Education: What Can You Do? (segment 42:30-46:51)
- Part 6: Gun Laws & Preventing Gun Violence (segment 50:08-52:33)

Design a Gun Safety Poster

Include these safety tips:

- “See a gun? Don't touch. Walk away. Tell an adult.”
- “Real guns are not toys.”
- “Adults keep firearms locked and inaccessible to children.”

Display you poster in a classroom, library, or community center!

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Identify Trusted Adults

Listen

- Part 1: Why Do We ALL Need to Learn About Gun Safety? (segment 9:16-14:17)
- Part 3: Gun Safety Basics & De-escalation (segment 29:00-31:23)

My Trusted Adults

Identify three to five trusted adults you could approach when you feel unsafe or need help.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

My Safety Circle

Draw a safety circle with family members, teachers, school counselors, and other trusted caregivers you listed above.

It's always okay to ask for help, even if you're unsure whether something is dangerous.

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Youth Voices for Safety

Listen

- Part 5: Gun Violence Prevention Education: What Can You Do? (segment 42:30-46:51)
- Part 6: Gun Laws & Preventing Gun Violence (segment 50:08-52:33)

Write

Write a letter, make a short speech, or create a slogan about keeping your school and community safe from gun violence.

Ask Questions

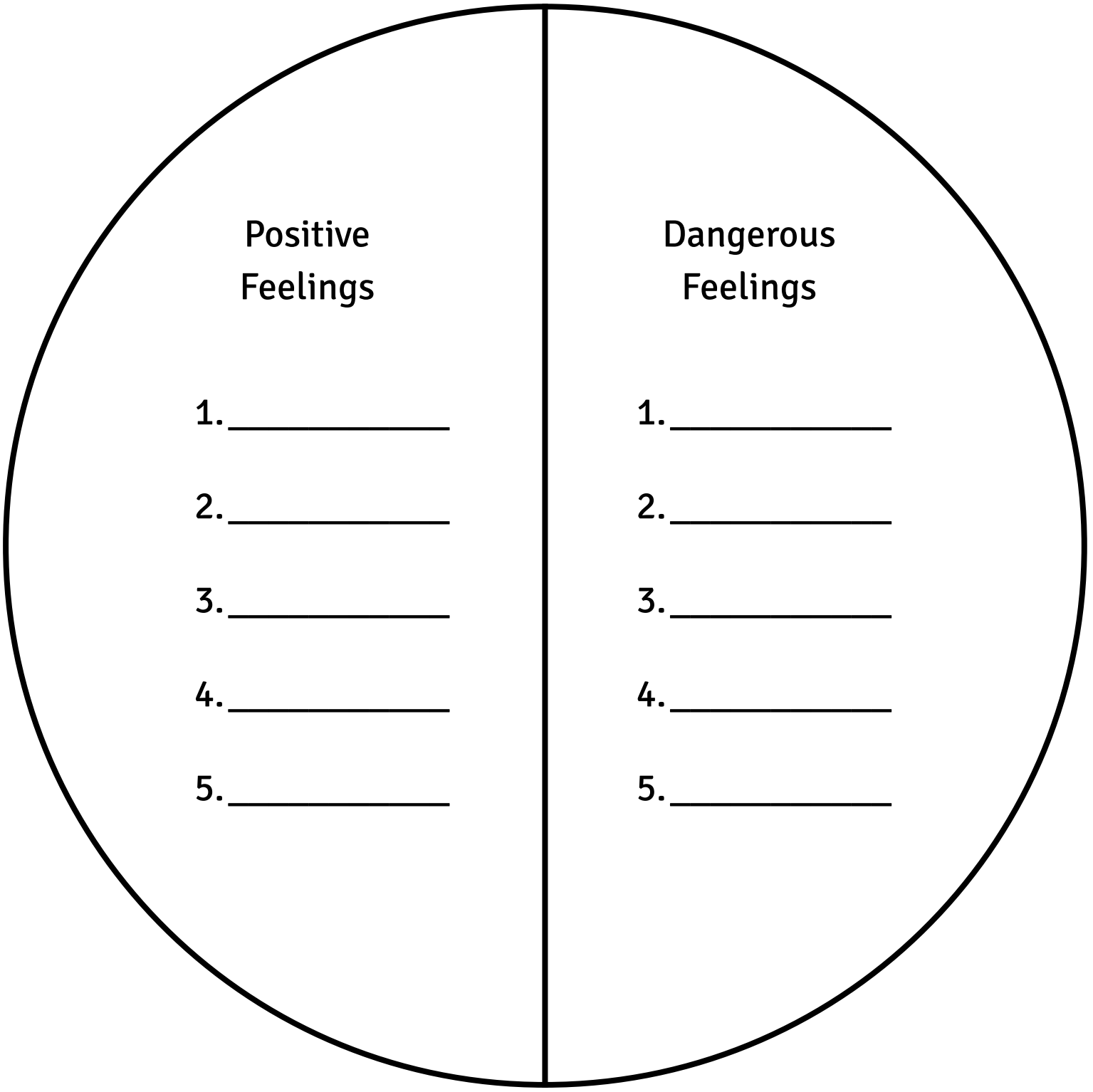
Brainstorm questions for community leaders about safe firearm storage, injury prevention, and supporting affected families.

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Identify Feelings

Write down the feelings people might experience while shooting guns.

How can understanding others' emotions be important when understanding gun use? Are there emotions that might be dangerous while operating a gun?



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Additional Resources

B.C. Police Warn about 3D-Printed Guns that Look Like "Harmless Toys"
A short news article showing a range of guns that look like toys but are real.

Preventing Firearm Injury and Death
Guidelines from the CDC.

Guns in the Home: How to Keep Kids Safe
Firearm safety for families from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Nationwide Children's Firearm Safety
Advice on talking to your child or teenager about gun safety.

Project Child Safe: A Message for Young Children
A guide to responsible gun ownership, safe handling, and secure storage from the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

Eddie Eagle Kids' Program
Program materials from the NRA include kids' activity books and other materials for kids in PreK- 4th grade.

Videos

Real Guns Made to Look Like Toys
A short news story that warns of the dangers and shows some examples.

Teach Youngsters Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle
In this video, Eddie Eagle and his friends discover a gun in the park and learn to "stop, don't touch, run away, and tell a grown-up".

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Book List



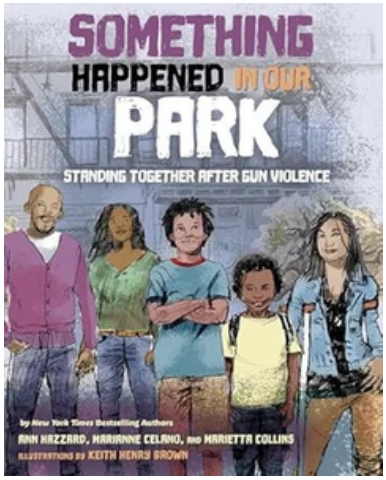
This Is a Gun: A Safety Guide for Families with Children
by David Hayes Cox, illustrated by Joe Ruiz

An age-appropriate introduction for young children and their families to read together. Written by a certified firearms instructor and dad, this picture book uses simple language and gentle illustrations to teach children what guns are, why they can be dangerous, and what to do if they encounter one.
ages 4-10



Sparking Peace
by Teresa Kim Pecinovsky & Hannah Rose Martin, illustrated by Gabhor Utomo

After a child accidentally breaks a neighbor's window, an unexpected friendship grows. A community blacksmith turns a gun into a garden trowel - a trowel that the boy gifts to his neighbor as they grow a garden together. Afterword talks about the real life movement to mold guns into garden trowels.
ages 4-9



Something Happened in Our Park: Standing Together After Gun Violence
by Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Keith Kenry Brown
When Miles's cousin is hurt in a shooting, he learns — with the support of family and neighbors — how people can work as a community to feel safer and support one another through fear and change. Includes thoughtful guidance for parents and caregivers on talking with kids about these experiences.
ages 5-9

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