Gun Safety Lesson Plan
Targeted Audience: Elementary Students Ages 6-9

OVERVIEW:

This is a one hour class focused on interactive learning geared towards elementary school students ages 6-9. Students will learn the basics about firearm safety, how to prevent an accidental shooting, and how to talk to others about firearm safety.

GOALS:

1) Engage elementary school age children to think about gun safety in a positive way.
2) Give elementary school age children the confidence to use the safety tools they learn if they come across a firearm.
3) Empower elementary school children to share the safety message with parents and friends.
4) Use positive reinforcement and repetition to get the message to stick.

TOOLS NEEDED:

1) Oversized Sticky Pad and Easel (LIKE THIS ONE)
2) K.I.D.S. downloadable image
3) Safety Scenarios
4) Large, colorful squirt gun
5) Realistic toy gun with orange tip
6) K.I.D.S. Graduation Certificates
7) K.I.D.S Coloring Page
    a) Boy
    b) Girl

CLASS OUTLINE:

1) Discussion about guns and what to do if you encounter a gun
2) Introduce K.I.D.S. acronym using engaging games
3) 3 Basic gun safety rules if you end up holding a firearm
4) Coloring Activity to bring home to parents/guardians
5) Graduation and handout goodies (certificate and letter to parents)

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CAPTURE THEIR ATTENTION:
(5 minutes)

"I'm XXX with KIDS. And I need your help today! I'm hoping you can help me spread the message about gun safety.

"Where have you seen a gun before??"

(Kids can raise their hands to answer). Some possible answers are:
On TV, police officer, video game, at their home, hunting, cowboys

TAKING IT SERIOUSLY:
(10 minutes)

Show the group the large, colorful squirt gun.

"How do you know this isn't a real gun?"

(Let the kids answer)

Show the kids the realistic toy gun with an orange tip.

"How do you know this isn't a real gun?" "If it didn't have this orange tip, could it be real?"

"What would you do if you found this lying around in your home or at a friend's house?"

Your job is to encourage correct answers that promote safety.

K.I.D.S. INTRODUCTION:
(10 minutes)

Display the KIDS image (downloadable image here) on whiteboard. Explain to the students that if they encounter a gun, they just need to remember the K.I.D.S model!



K - Know what to do. Stay Calm. Take a Deep Breath.
I - Inform. Tell an adult.
D - Distance. Walk Away.
S - Safety. Safety above all else.

Ask the students to stand up at their desk. Show them these motions:
K - Know what to do - **Take a deep breath. Don't touch the firearm.**
I - Inform - **Raise their hand like they would to say something in class**
D - Distance - **While at their desk, they will take 3 steps backwards**
S - Safety - **Do the Safety Stance (one hand over heart, the other hand in the air)**

Practice these motions a few times so students know the motions with each acronym.

Challenge the students to see how fast they can remember the different steps. Walk them through the acronym and have them repeat the letters and what they mean. "K" stands for "Know What To Do: Don't touch the gun!" Then "Inform" to see how quickly they raise their hand. Continue with the rest of the K.I.D.S. model. Repeat a few times to ensure everyone is comfortable with the different motions.

K.I.D.S. GAME:
(15 minutes)

Now we are going to use scenarios and ask students to walk through the K.I.D.S. motions. This is the part where we want the kids to interact with helping build the safety strategy if they ever encounter a gun.

Use the large post-it paper to make a big one K, I, D, S on each paper and hang them on the 4 different corners of the room.

Separate the students into even groups and assign them a corner to go stand in.

Explain to the kids:
"I will read a scenario and we will show how smart all of us KIDS really are!"
After I read a scenario, I'll point to each corner and that group of students will do

the motion for the acronym they are standing in." When I point to your group, all say the words for your corner and do the motion together!"

Use the Scenarios (found here). You may use more or less depending on how much time you have. After 3 scenarios, ask students to move as a group to the next corner. This will allow all students to practice each acronym a few times. Repeat until all students have visited all 4 corners.

Once students return to their seats - **Reward Time - Hand out certificates to all the kids.

HANDLING A FIREARM:

(10 minutes)

"What would you do if you found yourself holding a gun? What if a friend handed one to you? Or you reached down and found one in the car?"

Let the kids answer. Praise for correct, safety conscious answers.

Use the sticky notepads to write out the top 3 safety rules.

1. **Treat every gun as if it were loaded!**
2. **Never touch the trigger.**
3. **Enact your K.I.D.S. model!**

REFLECTION TIME:

(10 minutes)

Hand out coloring pages for kids. This will be the K.I.D.S. acronym we ask the children to bring home and teach their parents, guardians, siblings and friends.

WRAP UP:

(10 minutes)

Hand out pre-signed certificates to all the kids. They get a goodie bag with a pencil, the letter to parents, and any other giveaways we decide upon.