

Violence Prevention: Tips for Parents & Educators

Reminders for Families:

- Please remind your children that UCS values safety above all. We continue to work with local authorities to make sure we are prepared for an emergency.
- We practice safety drills to prepare our school
- Please remind your children we all play a role: "IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING."
- Senseless violence is hard for everyone to understand. Providing children with opportunities to do things they enjoy, sticking to a normal routine, and being with friends and family can help keep kids
- Access to guns is one of the leading risk factors for deadly violence. It is important that children be kept away from guns and other weapons. It is equally important that children be encouraged to tell an adult if they know someone has a gun.
- Parents you should feel comfortable and confident asking if guns are in homes where your child/ren may visit or have play dates.

Talking with your children: Keep explanations developmentally appropriate.

- **Early elementary school** students need brief, simple information that is balanced with reassurances that their school and homes are safe and that adults are there to protect them. Give simple examples of school safety that remind children about exterior doors being locked, child monitoring efforts on the playground, and emergency drills being practiced.
- **Upper elementary and early middle school** students will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Discuss efforts of school and community leaders to provide safe schools and provide concrete examples.
- **Upper middle school and high school** students will have strong and varying opinions about the causes of violence in schools and society. They will share concrete suggestions about how to make school safer and how to prevent tragedies in society. Emphasize the role that students have in maintaining safe schools by following school safety guidelines (e.g., not providing building access to strangers, reporting strangers on campus, reporting threats to the school safety made by students or community members, etc.), communicating any personal safety concerns to school administrators, and accessing support for emotional needs.

