

# Safety Voice

In this lesson, we discussed why we need to have safety rules and how important it is to make **Safe and Smart Choices**. Topics included classroom safety, bike safety, pool safety, kitchen safety, fire safety, and gun safety.

## What is a Safety Voice?

A Safety Voice is a strong, assertive (“I mean business”) voice the child uses in unsafe, confusing, or uncomfortable situations. Learning to develop and use a Safety Voice is vital to every child’s safety. We discussed how using our Safety Voice is a **Safe and Smart Choice** to help keep ourselves and our friends safe. Children were taught to use their Safety Voice like a stop sign. They practiced saying, **“STOP! That’s not safe!”** They learned that if someone (another child, teen, or adult) asks them to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, they have a right to say, **“Stop! That’s not safe!”** Each child participated in role-play situations such as:

- A child asks another to play with matches
- A child finds a gun in a closet
- A child wants to use the cleaning supplies found in a cabinet
- A child wants to jump into the pool without a Grown-up present

In each role-play, the children practiced saying, **“Stop! That’s not safe!”** in their Safety Voice. In situations when their friends didn’t listen to them, the children were taught to **Report** to their Grown-up for help. They learned the difference between tattling and

Reporting. Tattling is when you tell a story just to get someone into trouble. **Reporting** is when you go to a Grown-up for help to keep yourself and your friends safe.

## Continue the KidSafe Conversation at Home

- Empower your children to use their **Safety Voice** and say, **“Stop! That’s not safe!”** (in an “I mean business” voice) when they are in any unsafe, confusing, or uncomfortable situation. Demonstrate your own Safety Voice, too.
- Let your children know you are an available Grown-up that they can **Report** to for help.
- Play the **“What if?”** game. Ask your children what they would say and do in different situations. For example:
  - “What if one of your friends wants to play birthday party and light candles? What would you **say**? What would you **do**?”
  - “What if you are on a playdate and your friend says he wants to show you his parent’s gun? What would you **say**? What would you **do**?”
  - If your children don’t give Safe and Smart answers, remind them that they can always use their Safety Voice to help make Safe and Smart Choices.