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WHAT SHOULD A CHILD DO IF HE ENCOUNTERS A WEAPON IN SCHOOL?



The school violence epidemic continues: According to the Oct. 21 cover story in *USA Today*, since mid-August, '03, there have been more incidents of school violence than at the beginning of any other school year.

Weapons are still finding their way into our nation's schools. Bullying and gang activities are an all-too-real part of the student experience.

As all of us struggle to find answers to the horrifying new streak of violence plaguing our schools, many children are confused, uncertain, and scared.

Here's what parents and educators need to do

Eminent psychologist and author **Dr. Ken Druck**, the nation's foremost authority on school violence says, "***Be prepared.***" Here are Dr. Druck's **5 Do's and Don'ts**:

1. **DON'T** do anything to put yourself in danger, such as taking matters into your own hands.
DO go to a phone or to someone in authority ASAP. Be specific and report the details.
2. **DON'T** go around telling your friends. Word may get back to the person carrying the weapon that you have been talking about her.
DO talk about it only to the authorities. They will know how to handle the situation.
3. **DON'T** ignore, minimize, or deny the danger of someone having a weapon. "It's OK, he's not going to hurt anyone," is a cop-out.
DO take responsibility for making your school and neighborhood safer by taking safe action.
4. **DON'T** antagonize the person carrying the weapon, or try to take it away from him.
DO try to calm down and reason with the person carrying the weapon, especially if there's no escape and you or another are at risk.
5. **DON'T** touch a weapon if you come across one, but don't leave a weapon unattended.
DO send someone for help, if you see or discover an unattended weapon.

Share these tips! Dr. Ken Druck is on call for interviews and feature stories.

Call-ins available. Parents will feel informed and reassured.

Dr. Druck is founder of the **Families Helping Families** program and has worked with families at Columbine and Santana high schools, and at other sites of tragedy including New York City after 9/11. Dr. Druck has been interviewed on *Oprah*, *Larry King Live*, and dozens more shows nationwide. His latest book is ***How to Talk to Your Kids About School Violence***.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Druck please contact The Jenna Druck Foundation at (619) 294-8000 or cpierre@jennadruck.org

Media kit and review copies available on request. For more information, including audio and video clips of Dr. Druck, please visit <http://howtotalktoyourkids.com/pressinfo/>