

Safety and Wandering Prevention Checklist

Help keep your loved one with autism safe by considering the following:

Safety in the Home

- Use visual aids in the home** to set up boundaries for your child (suggested placement: doors, windows, kitchen appliances, etc.).
- Secure your home and yard** (look into installing door and window exit alarms).
- Monitor any changes** in home security or routines.

Safety in the Community

- Alert your trusted neighbors** by informing them of your child's habits, triggers and potential to wander. *See [Neighbor Alert form](#)*
- Provide a safety plan** to your child's school, camps and other community programs and alert them of wandering tendencies. *School Alert/IEP Letter*
- Introduce your child** to law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel in your community and provide more information on autism and wandering. *See [Wandering Tips for First Responders](#)*
- Alert first responders** with a written document describing your child's wandering tendencies. *See [Autism Elopement Alert Form](#)*
- Consider safety products** like wearable forms of ID with identifying information and alert of autism diagnosis.
- Display autism alert window decal** to alert first responders your child has autism and may not respond to verbal commands.
- Consider a locating device** or enrolling in emergency locating services like Project Lifesaver.

Teaching Safety

- Work on a safety plan** with your child to teach them how to keep themselves out of harm's way. *See [Family Wandering Emergency Plan](#)*
- Create teaching stories and visual aids.**
- Keep identification** on your child (*wearable ID or information cards*).
- Create a safety plan** and goals with your child's behavioral team.
- Enroll** your child in swimming and water safety lessons.
- Monitor and document** your child's progress and any challenges or changes you observed. *See [Safety Log](#)*

To access other Safety information referenced here, go to autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/autism-safety-kit