

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

