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