Safety
(At Home and on the Go)
Brief Informational Guide



Autistic children are at a higher risk for safety concerns and may be less able to recognize danger and/or stay safe. A proactive approach to safety is helpful in preventing injuries and keeping kids healthy. Close monitoring and increased precautions can help kids on the autism spectrum stay safe.

Scan Me



Common Safety Concerns

Elopement

- Nearly half of all children on the autism spectrum wander away from safe settings. Wandering, elopement, or running behaviors pose safety risks and can create stress among caregivers.

Water

- Autistic individuals may be more interested in and attracted to water and drowning fatalities are a leading cause of death. According to a 2017 study from the National Autism Association, **drowning accounts for more than 70% of wandering-related fatalities**[1].

Transportation

- All children under the age of 8 years old are required to be in appropriate car/booster seats. Autistic children may attempt to unbuckle themselves from the car seat or seat belt. Keep children in the most protective seat for as long as possible.

Around the House

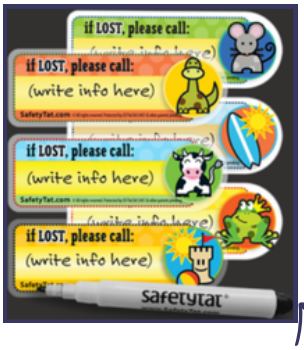
- Most injuries in children occur at home. Everyday household items like batteries, detergents, electric cords and outlets, cleaning supplies, and medications can put your child's safety at risk.

Emergency

- It is important that your family has a response plan in case of an emergency. Practicing these emergency safety plans, such as a fire safety plan, can be helpful for your child. Make sure to inform neighbors, teachers, emergency personnel, and family members of your child's strengths and challenges.

1. https://nationalautismassociation.org/watersafety/

Supports



Wandering: Elopment/Running Away

Safety Tools

1. Shoe ID Tags
2. GPS Trackers - Angel Sense
3. Temporary Tattoos - safetytat

Toolkits/Websites

1. Family Wandering
2. Big Red Safety



Water

Safety Tools

1. Life Jackets
2. Pool Gates/Fences
3. Water Watcher Card

Toolkits/Websites

1. NAA Water Safety Toolkits
2. 12 Tips for Drowning Prevention



Transportation

Safety Tools

1. Adaptive Car Seats
2. Medical Alert Car Seat Cover
3. Buckle Guards

Toolkits/Websites

1. Buckleupforlife.org
2. CHOP.edu (Child Passenger Safety Tools)



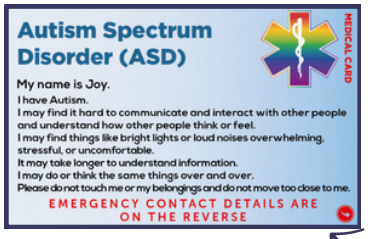
Around the House

Safety Tools

1. Cabinet Locks
2. Medication Lock Box
3. Door Alarms

Toolkits/Websites

1. Autism Speaks Safety Products & Services
2. Autism and Medication Safe & Careful Use



Emergency

Safety Tools

1. Silent Alert Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Monitors
2. Emergency Response Plan
3. Personal Emergency Profile
4. Safety Alert Card

Toolkits/Websites

1. September26.org
2. Smart911.com

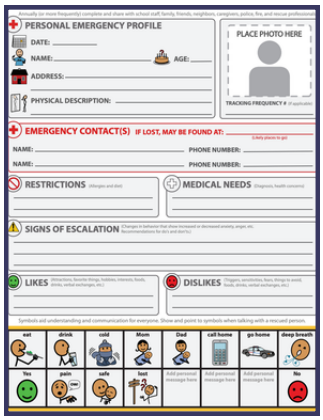
Wandering Safety



Water Safety



Personal Emergency Profile (from Big Red Safety Toolkit)



NOTICE

If your autistic child is missing, immediately call 911 and search nearby water.

NOTES:

NOTICE

Talk to your child's school about implementing a safety plan!

If you have questions about safety, please talk to your child's healthcare clinician.