

family wandering emergency plan

awaare.org



Make sure your family has a plan in case of a wandering emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event your child is missing.

critical information to remember

MY CHILD'S TRANSMITTER TRACKING NUMBER (if applicable) _____

MY CHILD'S OFFICIAL DIAGNOSIS _____

MY CHILD'S IDENTIFYING MARKS, BEHAVIORS, MEDICATIONS & MEDICAL NEEDS _____

emergency steps:

- ALWAYS CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS MISSING FROM YOUR HOME.**
- IF YOUR CHILD IS ATTRACTED TO WATER, SEARCH NEARBY WATER SOURCES FIRST.**
- Clearly state your child's name for the 911 operator.
- State that they have a cognitive impairment, provide the diagnosis, state they are endangered and have no sense of danger.
- Provide your child's radio frequency tracking number (if applicable).
- Provide your child's date of birth, height, weight, and other unique identifiers (eyeglasses, braces, hand-flapping, etc.)
- If your child is attracted to water, tell them to **immediately** dispatch personnel to nearby water sources (lakes, ponds, pools)
- Tell them when you noticed that your child was missing and what clothing he or she was wearing.
- Request an AMBER Alert be issued, or Endangered Missing Advisory.
- Request that your child's name and identifying information be immediately entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Missing Person File.

Search known areas your child would likely be or attracted to. If you have an emergency point person assigned to contact neighbors, pick up your other children from school, watch your children, etc., alert them while searching known areas your child would likely be. If you have other small children, never leave them unattended.

TIP: create an emergency point person who can contact neighbors, fax your alert form to local law enforcement, and assist in making arrangements for your other children.

Should your child go missing, make sure this contact has a cell phone, knows what your child is wearing, any identifying features, where you child was last seen, how long your child may have been gone, any medical needs or allergies your child may have, your child's likes and dislikes and main attractions. Ideally, the emergency contact will be a relative or close friend. Provide your emergency contact with a copy of this plan and ask them to keep it in a safe, accessible place.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER: _____

TIP: list the main places your child may likely go within the neighborhood, as well as the most dangerous areas nearby, such as ponds, lakes, pools, etc. Search these areas **first**. If you have assigned "search angels" ahead of time, make sure they know which location is assigned to them. Draw maps of these locations, or physically show the volunteers the location to which they are assigned **before** an emergency happens.

| LOCATION NAME | LOCATION DESCRIPTION |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |

TIP: Before an emergency happens, assign at least five (5) willing “search angels” who will commit to searching for your child in the event of an emergency. Make sure they would be immediately available (are typically home), willing, and understand which search location is assigned to them.

| NAME | NUMBER | NUMBER | ASSIGNED LOCATION |
|------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

OTHER NUMBERS:

LAW ENFORCEMENT FAX NUMBERS: (in case local law enforcement does not have your child's information on file, have your assigned emergency point person fax it.)

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC): 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

LOCAL MEDIA CONTACT NUMBERS:

OTHER NOTES: (make any notes you feel may be important in case of a wandering emergency.)

TIPS: JOIN “NAA AUTISM & SAFETY: WANDERING PREVENTION” ON FACEBOOK so that social media tools are readily available. Keep this document with you at all times. Keep a copy in a safe, accessible place within the home. Keep this with your child's first responder alert form, documentation of diagnosis, medical papers and any other important information.