

Neighbor Alert Letter

Give a letter like this sample letter to trusted neighbors to inform them of your child with autism's tendency to wander.

Dear Neighbor,

We have a child with autism. About half of children with autism have a tendency to wander from safety.

We watch our child very carefully, but sometimes he/she unpredictably wanders away from safety.

Our child's name is _____. He/she is _____ years old as of today, _____. He/she is _____ tall and weighs about _____ lbs.

He/she usually wears _____.

WHAT TO DO?

We kindly ask if you see our child alone, please stay with him/her and immediately call:

_____. We are probably already looking for him/her. Please also call 911 and tell them that you have found our child.

Our child, _____, does not speak very well and does not understand danger. He/she might walk into the street without looking. He/she may be dangerously drawn to bodies of water like lakes, rivers or swimming pools and could drown. He/she might walk in your house or yard if a door or gate is open. He/she will become lost very easily and not know he/she is lost. If you ask our child a question he/she will likely not answer.

Our child may appear to be deaf. However, our child can hear. But he/she may not react to things that he/she hears or sees or respond to your verbal commands.

Our child sometimes has outbursts where he/she might scream or shake his/her hands, or act in other unusual ways for a few moments. Please don't misinterpret any of these motions. He/she does not intend to hurt anyone. If you see our child please stay with him/her and call us, then 911 right away.

We have included a recent picture of our child.

Thank you,

_____ (Parent Name)

_____ (Address)

_____ (Phone)

To learn more about autism, please visit autismspeaks.org.