

# **AUTISM SPEAKS**<sup>®</sup> AutismSafety

## Safety & Wandering Prevention Checklist



Help keep your loved one with autism safe by considering the following:

### Safety in the Home

- Utilize visual aids** in the home to set up boundaries for your child (*suggested placement: doors, windows, kitchen appliances, etc.*)  
*See "Safety Visual Aids"!*
- Secure your home** and yard (*look into installing exit alarms*)
- Monitor any changes** in home security or routines

### Safety in the Community

- Alert your trusted neighbors** by informing them of your child with autism'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  
*See "School Administrator form"!*  
*See Autism Speaks School Safety Tips!*
- Introduce your child** to law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel in your community and provide more information on autism and wandering  
*See First Responder Reminder Cards!*
- Alert first responders** with a written document describing your child's wandering tendencies  
*See Elopement Alert Profile forms (AWAARE)!*
- 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 (AWAARE)!*
- Respond** to safety visual aids/prompts
- See social story** 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  
*See Wandering Behavior Functions chart!*
- Enroll** your child in swimming and water safety lessons  
*See Swim and Water Safety info!*
- Monitor and document** your child's progress and any challenges or changes observed  
*See Autism Speaks Safety History log*