



Wandering, Bolting, and Running

What is Wandering?

Wandering is the tendency for an individual to try to leave the safety of a responsible person's care or a safe area, which can result in potential harm or injury. Wandering is sometimes referred to as Elopement, Bolting, Fleeing, or Running.

Wandering is a significant issue for children with developmental disabilities. Half of children with autism, intellectual disability or developmental delays engage in wandering behavior. Even though some of the following resources have "autism" in the title, they may also be helpful for children with other developmental disabilities, too.

Wandering Safety Products

Big Red Safety Box - <http://nationalautismassociation.org/big-red-safety-box/>

Secure Your Home

Consider contacting a professional locksmith, security company, or home improvement professional to promote safety and prevention in your home.

You may find it helpful to: use inexpensive battery-operated alarms on doors; place hook and eye locks on all doors above your child's reach; fence your yard; and/or, adhere printable STOP signs to doors, windows, and other exits.

Tracking Devices

Radio Tracking Devices

Worn on wrist or ankle to locate individual through radio frequency, typically require law enforcement search and rescue involvement, some provide personal tracking options.

- **Project Lifesaver** - www.projectlifesaver.org
- **Caretrak Systems** - www.caretrak.com
- **LoJack SafetyNet** - <https://safetynettracking.com>

Global Positioning System (GPS) Tracking Devices

Generally linked to a smartphone app to track the individual, may not be effective in areas without cell or satellite reception, most can provide perimeter alerts for when an individual leaves a specific area.

- **AngelSense** GPS is a non-removable GPS tracker <https://www.angelsense.com/>
- **Gizmo Pal** is a watch-like devices able to place/receive calls to a few pre-programmed numbers, has GPS tracking through an app.
- **Trax** is a small GPS tracker with app <https://traxfamily.com/#>

Wearable IDs

If person is found, gives finder caregiver's contact info & info about person's needs

- **Medic Alert** - <http://www.medicalert.org/autism> (free)
- **Road ID** - www.roadid.com
- **Safety Tat** - <https://new.safetytat.com/?from>

Alert Your Neighbors & First Responders

Safety & Wandering Prevention Toolkit-

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/Safety%20Forms.pdf>

Big Red Safety Tool Kit - A Digital resource for First Responders -

www.nationalautismassociation.org/docs/BigRedSafetyToolkit-FR.pdf

Reverse 911 - <https://achildissing.org/>

Family Wandering Emergency Plan -

<http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/FWEP.pdf>

Autism Elopement Alert Form - Person Specific for First Responders

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/worksheet/autism-elopement-alert-form>

Letters to the Neighbors - <https://whatcomtakingaction.org/2018/02/02/sample-letter-to-neighbors-to-help-keep-your-child-safe/>

Getting to Know Me form - <https://cshcn.org/pdf/getting-to-know-me.pdf>

Teach Your Child about Safety

Safety Social Story - <http://nationalautismassociation.org/docs/BigRedSafetyToolkit.pdf>

Five social stories about safety - <https://www.twigtales.com/autismspeaks>

Wandering at Your Child's School

Address wandering issues in his or her Individualized Education Program (IEP).

IEP Sample Letter - <http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/IEPletter/>

Write a letter requesting that you always be informed, immediately and in writing, of any wandering incident on or off the school.

NAA's Be REDy Booklet for Teachers is a free, downloadable toolkit.

<https://nationalautismassociation.org/big-red-safety-box/naas-big-red-safety-teacher-toolkit-now-available/>

General Resources

Big Red Safety Tool Kit: A Digital Guide for Caregivers -

<http://nationalautismassociation.org/docs/BigRedSafetyToolkit.pdf>

Care Givers Checklist Tool- http://nationalautismassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NAA_CAREGIVER_CHECKLIST.pdf

National Autism Association - <http://nationalautismassociation.org/>

AWAARE Collaboration - <http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/>

NAA Autism Safety - <http://www.autismsafety.org/>

Service dogs - <http://blessingsunleashed.org/>

Autism Speaks Safety Products and Resources - <https://www.autismspeaks.org/safety-products-and-services>

Funding Resources

Ben's Fund - <https://www.feetwa.org/bens-fund.html>

Joyful Journey Mom - <https://www.tsalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Ultimate-List-of-Grants-and-Resources-for-Families-with-Special-Needs-Joyful-J.pdf>

NeedyMeds.org - <http://www.needy meds.org/copay-aos/list/AA>