**Resources for Parents: Wandering and Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Children and youth with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disorders are at increased risk for wandering off with resultant increased risk for injury. This may in part be due to:

* Intense interests that they fixate on like water or places they want to be
* Decreased appreciation of danger (fearlessness)
* Not understanding safety rules

When in dangerous situations, children and youth with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities may be at further increased risk for injury because:

* They may not have the language to call for help
* They may misperceive people trying to help them as threatening
* They may not attend to or understand immediate dangers like water or traffic

What can families and schools do to prevent Wandering?

* Constant vigilance with a plan for adult supervision and hand-offs
* Fencing around pools and bodies of water
* Making neighbors and first responders aware of the safety needs
* Behavioral planning interventions to aide prevention

What can help if a person with Autism Spectrum disorder or another developmental disability wanders off?

* Medic alert bracelets, address/phone number labels in their clothing
* GPS products, some with law enforcement like Project Lifesaver

Where can families, schools or first responders learn more?

* Big Red Safety Box <http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/>
* <https://www.autismspeaks.org/wandering-resources>
* <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/Autism/Pages/Autism-Wandering-Tips-AAP.aspx>