SAFETY AT HOME DURING COVID-19

AUTISM FACEBOOK LIVE SERIES
APRIL 23, 2020
PRESENTED BY:
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WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “SAFETY?”

- Elopement = wandering or running away
- Keeping kids safe spending so much time at home
WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT…

- Risks
- Behavioral Strategies
- Who else needs to know?
- ID for your child
- Safety at home
WHAT ARE THE RISKS FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD?

1218 children with ASD

49% had a child who had attempted to elope at least once

26% missing long enough to cause concern
COVID-19 COULD BE MAKING THINGS HARDER FOR FAMILIES…

- Everyone’s routines have changed and everyone is stressed… and not just the kids. Could be seeing behavior as communication of this stress
- Missing the structure of school
- Parents may be trying to work from home
- Kids may be wanting to leave the house to go…anywhere!
- Reduced sensory regulation could be leading to increased risky behaviors like pica, climbing, and getting into unlocked cabinets
GOOD NEWS…
THERE ARE THINGS WE CAN DO!
EXAMPLES OF BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES

USE PRINTABLE VISUALS  
TONS OF PRAISE  
SOCIAL STORIES OR VIDEO MODELING
WHO ELSE NEEDS TO KNOW?

• Talk to your neighbors
• Consider talking to law enforcement
• Include safety concerns in IEP
ID FOR YOUR CHILD
ID BRACELETS
ID FOR YOUR CHILD - SHOE TAGS

![Image of shoe tags and a shoe]
SAFETY AT HOME
HOME AND APPLIANCE SAFETY
SAFE STORAGE

• Make sure prescription drugs, vitamins, and supplements are all safely stored.
  Consider a medication lock box

• Make sure that any firearms are safely stored, meaning unloaded, locked with a gun lock or stored in a safe, and with ammunition stored separately
DOOR AND DOORWAY SAFETY
Autism Childproof Lock!

Your Child can unlock the door and be gone without you knowing. Don’t wait for a tragedy to happen!

Autism Childproof Lock!
Works 24/7 and Never Sleeps!
So you can sleep when you travel with them!

Will stop most Children at the door. Children do not have the hand strength to operate the lock. Portable lock attaches to hinged doors without damage.

Autism Childproof Lock!
can travel with you on vacation or to a friend’s home down the street.
ONE BACK DOOR - MANY STRATEGIES!
WINDOWS, ETC.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES
MANY DEVICES ON THE MARKET
### GPS TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Widely available</td>
<td>• Don’t work well indoors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wide price range</td>
<td>• Most require a monthly data plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Small tag, bracelet, square device</td>
<td>• Not typically waterproof</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Work well most outdoor locations</td>
<td>• Varied battery life on a single charge</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Typically “tracked” with a personal cell phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rechargeable</td>
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<td>• Some versions have “listen in” capability</td>
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RADIO FREQUENCY TRACKING
# RADIO FREQUENCY TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

<table>
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<td>• Track well indoors and outdoors</td>
<td>• Often more expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Some offer waterproof function for a certain time and/or water depth</td>
<td>• Typically used in conjunction with law enforcement programs and need special device brought in by law enforcement to track</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Often use batteries and need regular planned replacement</td>
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“BE RED-Y” BOOKLET – WANDERING PREVENTION

• Free, downloadable
• Checklist for all aspects of safety
• Behavioral strategies
• Sample social stories scripts
• Sample safety plan to share with law enforcement
Safety Center at American Family Children’s Hospital
#608-890-8043
IMPORTANT RESOURCES

• Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver (CLTS) Case Manager or Service Coordinator
• Regional Centers for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) –
  https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm
