

Autism Safety Suggestions for Parents



1. Inform the school that your child may have safety risks. Ask that these risks be recognized in the IEP.
2. Ask for immediate notification of 911 if your child is missing / has eloped.
3. Ask that your school have an **elopement code** with a plan.
4. Ask for a **no personal electronics policy** for your child's classroom. This is to minimize distractions from personal cell phones and iPads and tablets while supervising your child. Supervision requires attention.
5. Ask that your child's safety issues be addressed in the IEP - set goals to reduce those risks.
6. See that your child participates in swimming instruction. Arrange for practice opportunities.
7. Check your property for risks. Set up barriers to prevent the child getting to water or risky areas.
8. If you have a pool, check for drain covers.
9. Get Red Cross First Aid, CPR and Water Safety instruction.
10. Always have your child secured in a car seat or booster or wears a seatbelt (based on age/weight).
11. If biking or skateboarding, see that children wear a helmet.
12. Have working fire and smoke alarms and have home fire drills.
13. Encourage your child's teacher to have additional fire drills with your child's class at school. All children with special needs have a need for safety at home and at school.
14. If you have a close-call, analyze the **root cause** of the issue. Address this cause so it is eliminated.
15. If your child elopes, get electronic tracking such as **Project Lifesaver** and extra home alarms. Get your home security system "tuned up" to prevent elopement. It can be set up to provide immediate notification of unauthorized exits.
16. See that any medication in your home or homes you visit (grandparents, etc.) is secured.
17. Make the kitchen a **no-go zone** for younger children. Also laundry area and garage.
18. Have any emergency plan developed with your family and caregivers and conduct practices with this.
19. Model good safety behaviors for all your children.
20. Make safety a priority for everyone in your family.

