



Do you know that **49%** of children with autism wander, and **82%** of the deaths that occur from wandering are due to drowning?

No one strategy is foolproof.

Any safeguard has inherent holes or gaps.

- a child can bypass a lock
- a door or window alarm might have dead batteries
- a GPS tracking device can lose its signal
- a caregiver can be distracted

A Multi-Layered Approach Saves Lives

Multiple layers of protection work together to reduce risk.

Tragedies occur when those holes line up. The goal is to stack layers so holes don't align.



Critical Elopement Preventative Strategies

- ✓ Make sure your child can swim
- ✓ Make sure your child is wearing some form of identification
- ✓ Install door and window alarms
- ✓ Install extra locks
- ✓ Consider cameras with motion sensors (like Ring doorbells)
- ✓ If considering tracking devices, fully investigate their features
- ✓ Notify the school and develop a plan in case your child leaves the building
- ✓ Create social stories to reinforce safe practices

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING



For resources on wandering and elopement, water safety and swim lesson scholarships, visit:

pathfindersforautism.org/md-autism-coalition/

*Safer Children.
Stronger Communities.*