Resources for Parents and Care Givers of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Get in touch with your local police department, fire department and 911 call center

Teach your child how to swim

ID Bracelets
If your child is prone to wander off or run away an ID bracelet can be extremely valuable. Not all people with autism will tolerate wearing an ID bracelet or necklace. Because of this, we have found a number of options for providing valuable contact and medical information to first responders:

MedicAlert http://www.medicalert.org/autism
The Medical ID Store www.medicalidstroe.com
My Precious Kid www.mypreciouskid.com


Tracking Devices
There are a number of devices on the market that can help locate a child who has wandered off or run away.

Gemini http://www.geminitracking.com
Ion Kids Tracking Wristband www.ion-kids.com
Project Lifesavers—Information listed by county below www.projectlifesaver.org
Care Trak Transmitters www.caretrak.com
Angel Alert Child Distance Monitor Amazon.com and other online retailers.

Ideas for Securing Your House

Secure deadbolt locks
Home security alarm system
Battery operated window alarms
Hook and eye locks on all doors—above the reach of children
Fence in the yard.
Get in touch with your local police department, fire department and 911 call center

People in the first responder community (police, fire and EMT’s) want to be able to help you and keep your family safe. You can help them. Let them know about your child, their behaviors and their needs. This allows first responders to access the critical information they need during a crisis situation.

The best way to do this is to go to your local precinct to introduce yourself, explain your child’s condition and express their needs (bringing a plate of cookies with you can be a nice gesture). You can also call the precinct to give them this information.

We have attached a Premise Alert Form, developed by the Philadelphia Police Department, which can help parents of children with disabilities communicate with their local police department about their child’s needs.

Teach your child how to swim

Because children with autism are often drawn to water, it is important that they get the skills they need to stay safe around water.

ID Bracelets

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MedicAlert has a program they have developed with the Autism Society of America. This includes a medical bracelet that is linked to an emergency medical information record for your child. http://www.medicalert.org/autism

The Medical ID Store has a number of Medical ID’s. www.medicalidstroe.com

My Precious Kid has a number of ID’s that are designed for kids. They are colorful and fun. Bracelets and shoe ID’s available. www.mypreciouskid.com

Road ID has identification products designed for runners and cyclists. They have ID options that attach to shoes and will not flop around. http://www.roadid.com/Common/LearnMore.aspx?PID=3

If your child will not tolerate jewelry you can get temporary ID tattoos from the Medical ID Store, My Precious Kid or from the National Autism Association. http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/products.php?cat=48
Tracking Devices

There are a number of devices on the market that can help locate a child who has wandered off or run away.

Gemini has a GPS tracking unit that can be placed on a child. This allows parents to locate their children using their own computer or a mobile phone. ($400-$500)
http://www.geminitracking.com

Ion Kids Tracking Wristband is a product that allows parents to track the location of their children. These devices can be worn in a watch like fashion or be clipped to a belt. ($250-$400)
www.ion-kids.com

Project Lifesavers/Colorado LifeTrak is a tracking program that is based on a relationship between families and first responders. Kids wear a transmitter wristband and first responders have a locator unit that can find a lost child within 2 to 5 miles. There is a significant initial cost associated with implementing this system in a community, but once it is established the resource can be shared across the community (including people with autism or with Alzheimer’s).

This technology is currently in use in many communities in Colorado. Contact your local police department to see if they have invested in Project Lifesavers/Colorado LifeTrak. Links to individual police departments in the Denver Metro area are listed below.

Channel 7 ran a piece on this technology a couple of years ago.

Adams County: 720-322-1215  
Alamosa County: 970-589-6608  
Arapahoe County: 720-874-4186 or cstelter@co.arapahoe.com.us  
For the City of Aurora, please call: 303-326-8978  
Boulder County: 303-441-3643  
http://www.bouldercounty.org/sheriff/lifetrak.htm  
This includes the municipalities for Boulder, Erie, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, and Nederland:  
Denver County: 720-913-6911  
This includes the City of Denver  
Douglas County: 303-660-7544  
http://www.dcsheriff.net/support/Colorado_Life_Trak.html  
This includes the municipality of Parker  
Fremont County: 719-276-7422  
Jefferson County: 303-271-5806  
http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/sheriff/sheriff_T62_R107.htm  
This includes the municipalities of Arvada, Lakewood and Wheat Ridge

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Please note that this list may not be comprehensive. Contact your local COLT representative if you need more information on the program and on program participants within Colorado.

Care Trak Transmitters is a program that is similar to Project Lifesavers, except families have the option of buying their own locating device that works at a distance of up to a mile. [www.caretrak.com](http://www.caretrak.com)

Angel Alert Child Distance Monitor
These devices are worn both by a person who is prone to wander and by their caregiver. When the devices are separated by a set distance the caregiver’s device will sound an alarm. These devices can be found on Amazon.com and other online retailers.

References
Autism Center of Tulsa [http://www.autismtulsa.org/](http://www.autismtulsa.org/)