

Understanding Adaptive Equipment



Some children and dependent adults may experience frequent or intense wandering/elopement behaviors. Incidents can happen quickly, without warning, and often during everyday routines like sleeping, outings, or travel.

Protective and adaptive equipment is designed to reduce life-threatening risks while helping your loved one safely participate in daily life.



Why Adaptive Equipment May Be Needed

Children or dependent adults may:

- Leave the home at night while caregivers sleep
- Bolt suddenly in parking lots or public places
- Unbuckle or escape car seats during travel
- Move unpredictably in busy or unfamiliar environments

Because wandering/elopement can happen in seconds, families often need layered safety tools to reduce risk.



Safety Beds like Cubby Beds



Adaptive Strollers Like Wonderfold

Types of Adaptive Equipment

- **Enclosed or adaptive beds** are designed to help prevent night-time wandering and support safe sleep.
- **Adaptive strollers or secure wagons** are built to enhance security during community activities or in public spaces.
- **Adaptive car seats** provide added harnessing and security for those who unbuckle, escape, or move unsafely during travel.

Review Possible Funding Resources for Adaptive Equipment

State Assistive Technology Programs:
Funding guidance by state
www.at3center.net/state-at-programs/

Affirm: Pay-over-time financing
www.affirm.com

UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation:
www.uhccf.org/apply-for-a-grant

United Way / 211 Resource Network:
Dial 211 or visit www.211.org

Variety: The Children's Charity
www.variety.org

zPods Sleep Foundation:
Grants Resource Center
www.zpodssleepfoundation.org/grants

For guidance or support:
info@autismsafetycouncil.org

Important Considerations

Adaptive equipment should always be selected with your loved one's individual needs in mind and reviewed regularly as they grow and change. These tools should balance safety with emergency and fire safety considerations and work as part of a broader safety plan that also includes supervision and skill-building.