

Autism Safety and Travel Overview



Strengthen supervision and home-base safety.

Install temporary door and window alarms in rentals or hotel rooms, and consider using portable baby monitors for overnight supervision. Establish a clear one-door entry and exit policy in vacation lodging while keeping all other doors locked.



Use visual and wearable safety tools.

Visual aids such as stop signs, boundary markers, and social stories help reinforce safety expectations in new environments. Wearable identification, such as an ID bracelet or shoe tag with contact information, is essential, and GPS tracking devices can help locate a child quickly if they wander.

Treat water as a constant risk.

Pack U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jackets for trips near pools, lakes, beaches, or water features, even if swimming is not planned. When booking lodging, avoid properties located near ponds, canals, or other murky bodies of water, especially if they are visible from your unit.



Research the environment before arrival.

Use satellite or map views through Google Maps to identify nearby pools, ponds, canals, or beaches before you travel. Make note of these locations and prioritize checking the closest water first if a child or dependent is missing.

Assign supervision roles in public spaces.

At inclusive parks, beaches, or water attractions, assign one adult per child whenever possible and rotate supervision so no child is ever unsupervised. Even fenced parks may have gaps or unlatched gates, so continuous visual supervision remains essential.



Alert staff and community members.

Introduce your child or dependent to lifeguards, park staff, or attendants and briefly share any relevant safety concerns, triggers, or bolting behaviors. Creating awareness adds another layer of protection.

Act immediately in an emergency.

If your or dependent child goes missing, call 911 right away and always search nearby water first. Every second counts.

