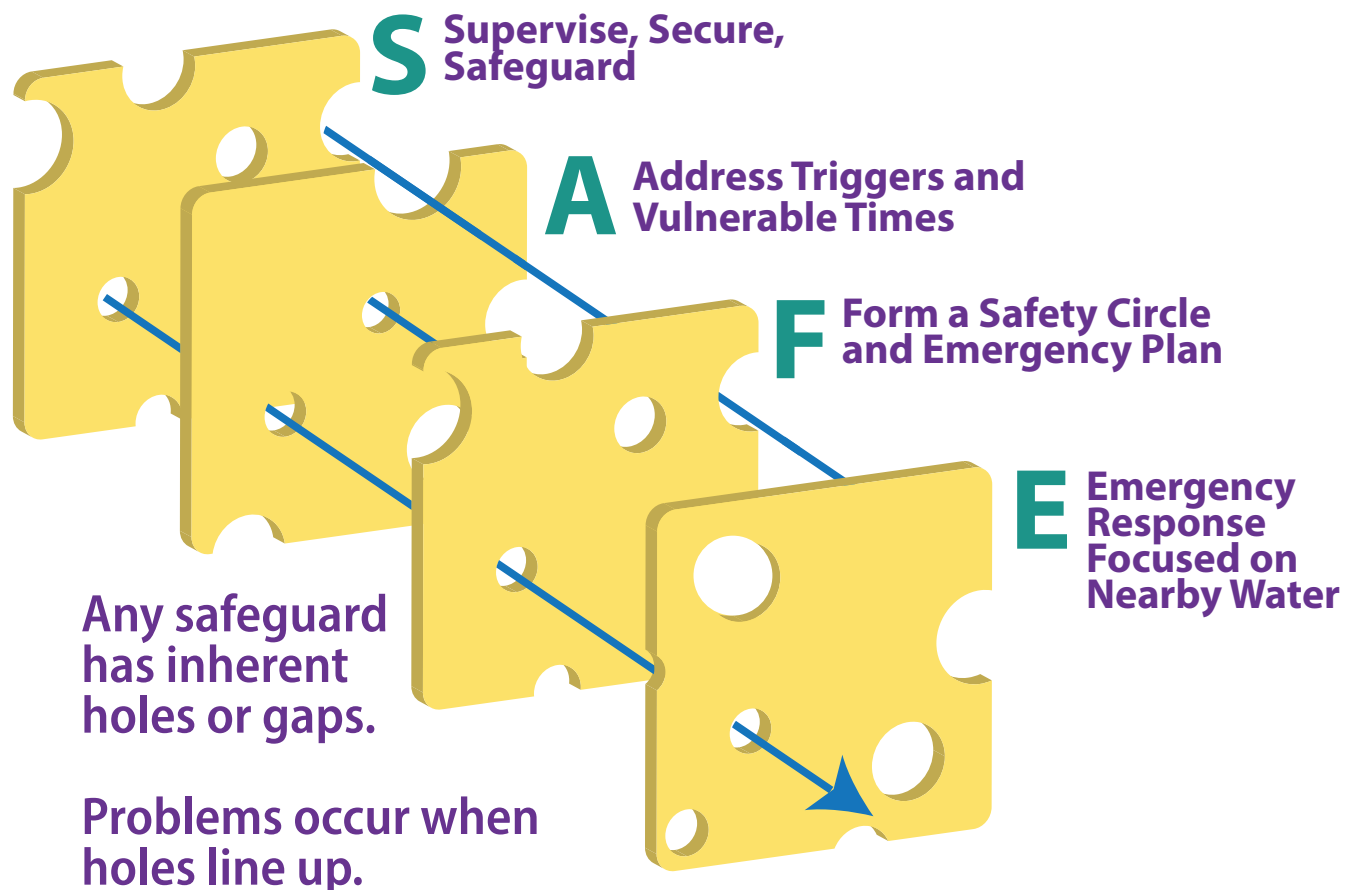


# The Swiss Cheese Model for Autism Elopement



## Elopement and drowning prevention takes layers. Think SAFE:

**S — Supervise, Secure, Safeguard:** Maintain close supervision, secure doors and windows with locks and alarms, use self-latching gates, watch for breaches like torn screens and open garage doors, and add safeguards such as early swim lessons, wearable ID, locative devices like AngelSense and Project Lifesaver, visual prompts, and teach safety skills.

**A — Address Triggers & Anticipate Vulnerable Times:** Identify sensory, emotional, or environmental triggers and plan ahead for higher-risk times like transitions, holidays, vacations, new moves, disrupted routines, and noisy or high-sensory environments. Maintain a no co-nap policy for adults.

**F — Form a Safety Circle & Emergency Plan:** Alert trusted neighbors, relatives, and school staff about elopement. Identify nearby water and create a plan so everyone knows what to do and where to search if your loved one goes missing.

**E — Emergency Response Focused on Nearby Water:** If elopement occurs, call 911, specify “autism,” not special needs, immediately search nearby water, activate emergency plan.

*No single safeguard is foolproof. Use layers of protection to help prevent elopement and prepare for an emergency.*