

Sue
Redepenning




*THE THERAPY
SOLUTIONS*




Safety Assessments Elopement and Wandering

Some of the Dangers:

- **Drowning:** wandering-related deaths in children with autism are due to drowning.
- **Traffic Injuries:** wandering incidents involve a close call with traffic.
- **Exposure to Elements:** Wandering can lead to dehydration, heat stroke, hypothermia, and other environmental hazards.
- **Encounters with Strangers:** Individuals may not recognize danger from strangers, increasing the risk of exploitation or harm.



WANDERING/ ELOPEMENT RISKS:

- **Prevalence:** Nearly 49% of children with autism have attempted to wander off.
 - **Age Factor:** Wandering is most common in children aged 4-7, with 46% of children with autism in this age group attempting to wander, compared to only 11% of their unaffected siblings.
 - **Locations:** Common places from which children wander include their own home (74%), stores (40%), and schools (29%).
 - **Dementia:** Wandering in dementia can be driven by confusion, attempts to fulfill former obligations, or seeking familiar people or places.
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Safety Assessments



Pre- assessment:

- Copy of the MN Choice Assessment.
- Support plan.
- ICD-10 codes:
 - Autism
 - Dementia
 - Alzheimer's
 - Mental Health




ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSON:

- Age
- Vision
- Cognition
- Hearing
- Physical abilities
- Sensory system
- Communication
- Family or caregiver support.




ASSESSMENT OF RISKS :

- Has the person wandered before?
 - Do they tend to wander day or night?
 - Does noise or discomfort trigger wandering?
 - Is the person fixated in going, and do they say where?
 - Can the person communicate?
 - Are there triggers that are consistent?
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DISCOVERING THE REASONS:

- **Escape from Stress.**
 - **Attraction to Specific Stimuli:** Individuals may be drawn to specific objects or places, such as water bodies, traffic signs, or favorite locations.
 - **Seeking Sensory Input:** Some may wander to seek out sensory stimuli that they find comforting or stimulating, like water or certain objects
 - **Confusion about Location or Time:** They may not recognize their surroundings or understand the time of day.
 - **Attempting to Fulfill Former Obligations:** They might try to go to work or return to a former home.
 - **Seeking Familiarity**
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ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT:

- Home set up and layout (rented or owned)
 - Risks in the home
 - Risks outside the home
 - Risks in the community.
 - Types of concerns and changes.
 - Analyze the spaces in the home.
 - Person's daily routines: preferences and activities in home, community and life.
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OPTION EXPLORATION:

- Looking for least restrictive options for safety in home.
 - Creating safe spaces.
 - Assess for what the person is seeking.
 - Are there things that can slow the person down from leaving.
 - Where to add alerts, versus when a camera is needed.
 - Will a wearable be helpful and if so, is it in home, community or both.
 - Tolerance of the person
 - Abilities of the caregivers
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MODIFICATIONS:

- Open Stairways
 - Door exits of the home
 - Enclosures of balcony or porch areas
 - Sliding glass door locks or ways to prevent opening.
 - Fence non climbable with alerts and the gate.
 - Adding sensory space or activity spaces.
 - Ideas to support transitions, outings and supports.
 - Durable Medical Equipment/Devices
 - Sleep spaces, and DME support for sleep.
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STRATEGIES:

- **Secure the Home:** Use visual prompts like stop signs on doors and windows. Auditory prompts.
 - **Use Identification and Tracking Devices**
 - **Teach Safety Skills:** Enroll children in swimming lessons and teach them road safety, stranger danger, and other critical safety skills.
 - **Behavioral Interventions:** Work with professionals to develop communication and reasons behind wandering.
 - **Community Awareness:** Inform neighbors, schools, and local agencies.
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Indoor play spaces



Water Play



Rain Gutter River
Running Water Play



Safety in the community



Positioning Equipment



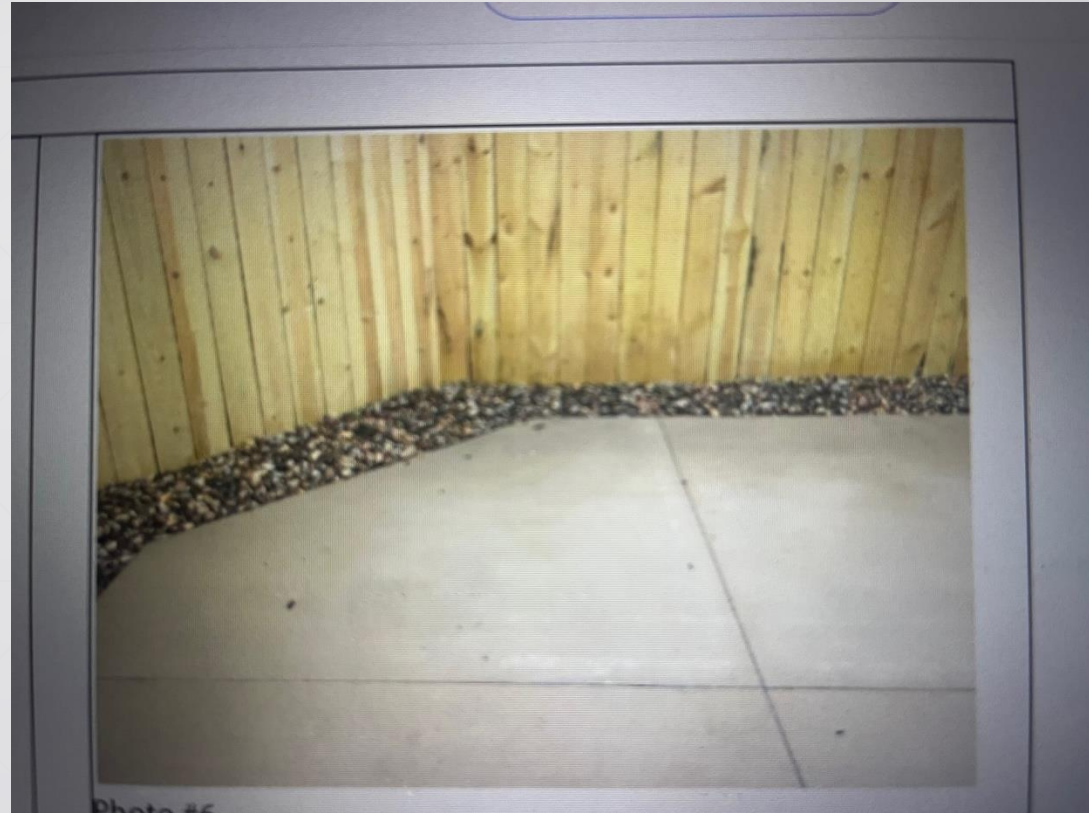
Positioning Devices



Safety Beds



Non-
climbable
Fence





Thank You

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