



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION**

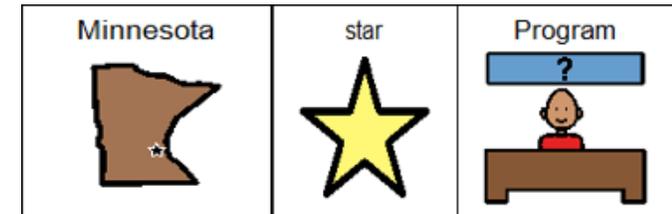
# **Assistive Technology for Elopement and Wandering**

MN STAR Program – Jamis Wehrenberg

In Collaboration with Keeri Tramm and MN-NEAT

# How Can Minnesota STAR Program Help?

- System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR)
- Minnesota's federally funded Assistive Technology Act Program
- Housed within the MN Department of Administration
- Providing services to ALL MINNESOTANS
  - No proof of disability required.
  - There is no cost for the STAR Program services



# Minnesota STAR Program Services

- Device Demonstrations
- Device Equipment Loans
  - Short-term
  - Open-Ended (limited availability)
- Information and Assistance
- Training

# STAR Program Device Demonstrations

- Requested by individual, family member, guardian or professional
- Compare device features
- Demonstrate one or more devices
- Assist with decision making



# STAR Program Device Loan

- Short-term device loan (45 days or less)
  - Provides an opportunity to test out the equipment in their own environments.
  - Assist with decision making
  - Professional Development
  - Short-term accommodation
- Open-ended loan



Pocketalker Ultra

<https://mn.at4all.com/>

The screenshot displays the website's interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the logo for the Minnesota Department of Administration Assistive Technology STAR. The main content area features a search bar at the top with the text 'Enter a keyword or phrase to search.' Below this is a 'Search Results' section with filters for Category, Program, Transaction Type, and Zip Code. A 'Search by Website Category' button is also present. The results are sorted by 'Item Name A-Z'. Two items are listed: 'Ablenet Candy Corn' (3 items, \$0.00 loan) and 'Ablenet Pony Pal' (#10003, \$0.00 loan). Both items are available for loan and have a 'Login to place in cart' button. A help icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the results area.

**mn**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION  
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY  
STAR

Login or Create Account

Home

ITEMS

- Newly Listed Items
- Item List

CONTACT

- Contact Us
- Participating Programs

Enter a keyword or phrase to search.

### Search Results

Category: - All Categories -

Program: - All Programs -

Transaction Type: - All Transaction Types -

Zip Code:

> Search by Website Category

Sorting: Item Name A-Z

 **Ablenet Candy Corn** Minnesota STAR Program  
3 items  
Loan: \$0.00 Available for Loan St. Paul Login to place in cart

A compact, wired proximity sensor switch that activates when a body part is within 10-mm of the switch top. Features visual and auditory feedback, and a 1/8-in/3.5-mm mono switch plug.

 **Ablenet Pony Pal** Minnesota STAR Program  
#10003  
Loan: \$0.00 Available for Loan St. Paul Login to place in cart



# Assistive Technology at STAR for Elopement and Wandering

# Wearable GPS Trackers

## AngelSense

- **Safeguard GPS:** All-Day monitoring, live tracking maps, geofencing
- **Proactive Alerts:** Wandering alerts, unique alerts for unexpected places, transit alerts
- **Assistive Speakerphone:** 2-way and 1-way voice calls, SOS call button, voice messaging, automatic pick-up
- **Search and Rescue Tools:** Share live location, shareable photo for first responders
- **Safe Ride Monitoring:** Live tracking map, maximum speed, ETA, history of transit event
- **Well-Being Features:** Step counter, fall detection, pill reminders
- **Cost:** \$300 for kit and \$50/mo. for monitoring service. Current deal – Free Kit



# Sensors – Motion



## Wireless Motion Detector Alert:

- Senses motion and will chime/flash
- 58 ringtones and 5 adjustable volume levels
- Could be placed near a door or exit, and when motion is sensed, it will alert.
- Cost: Around \$23 for kit (one sensor and one alarm). Multiple sensors can be added for extra cost.



## Thirdreality Zigbee Door and Motion Sensors:

- Works with Amazon Echo (must have Zigbee hub built into the Echo). Easy installation.
- Zigbee works even when the wifi goes down.
- Cost: Around \$20 per sensor.

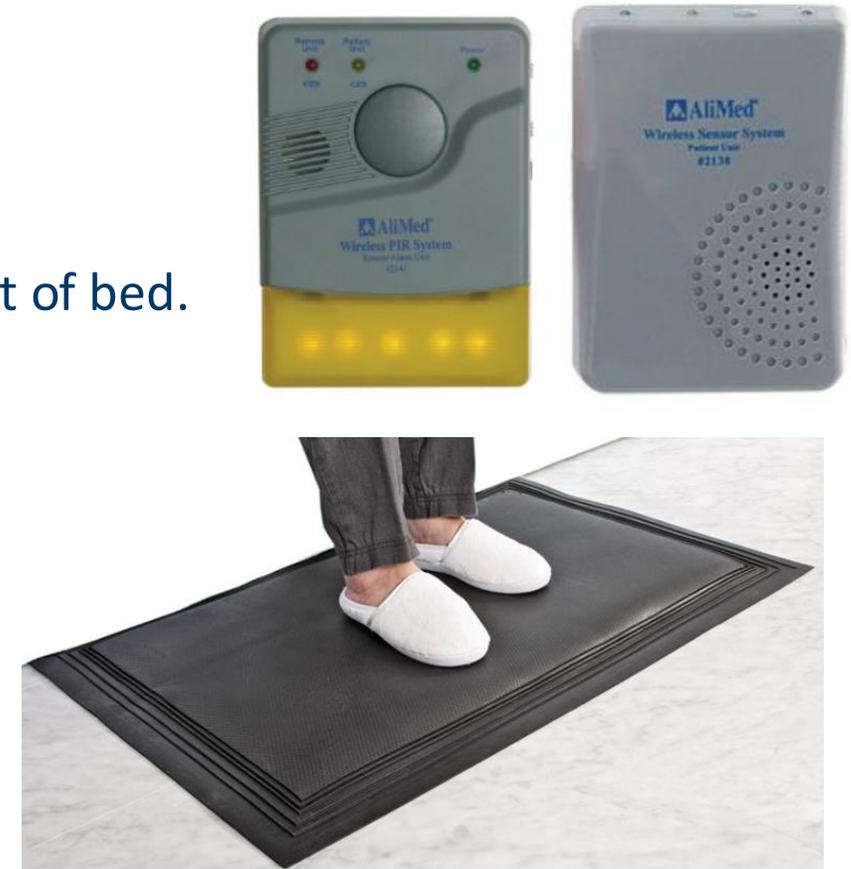


## Ring Doorbell

- Get alerts to any movement in front of the camera inside and outside.
- Know when a loved one arrives at home or leaves.
- See what direction an individual heads to on their way out the door.
- Ability to have a 2-way conversation through the device.
- Easy installation. No hardwiring required. Can be paired with Alexa.
- Cost: Around \$100

## AliMed Mat Alarm

- When pressure is placed on the mat, an alarm will sound.
- Place it beside the bed to alert caregiver when getting out of bed.
- Place near doors to alert caregivers of an exit
- Easy installation
- Cost: Around \$210



# Recreational



Major Bubbles



Hori Flex Controller



Give It a Whirl

# Sensory



LED Globe Light

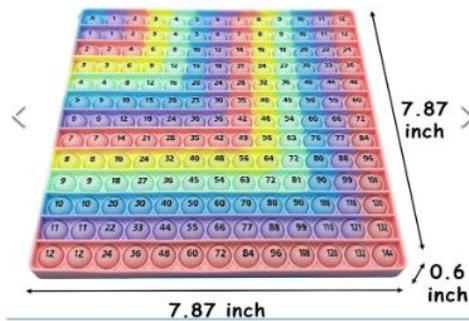


Companion Pet



Astronaut Galaxy Projector

Multiplication Pop it 12x12  
169 Bubbles



Addition/Multiplication Pop-It



Sensory Fidget Toolbox

# Adaptive Swimming

- Approximately 49% of children with ASD have attempted to elope after age 4, with 26% missing long enough to cause concern. Of those who went missing, 24% were in danger of drowning. ([American Academy of Pediatrics](#), 2012)
- Between 2011 and 2016, 17% of reported ASD wandering/elopement cases in the U.S. resulted in death, with 71% of these fatalities due to accidental drowning. ([National Autism Association](#), 2017)
- Children in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88%. ([Swim On Foundation](#), 2022)

# Adaptive Swimming

- **Swimming lessons are a must:**
  - Start with sensory integration
  - Seek a pool that matches your child's needs
  - Engage before swimming lessons begin
  - Visualize the expectations and location
  - Be consistent in instruction
  - CDCS (Consumer Directed Community Supports) and CSG (Consumer Support Grant) can pay for adaptive swim lessons.



# Adaptive Swimming - Rules

- **Create water rules:**
  - Never swim without an adult
  - You can swim here, you can't swim there.
    - Remain consistent
  - For some, swimming routines work to prevent getting in the water without completing that routine first.

# Adaptive Swimming – Sensory Needs

- **Communicate sensory needs:**
  - Water is so regulating!!!
  - Work with the individual and team to find safe ways to get the same regulation in a safe manner and communicate when they need it.
    - Bathtubs/hot tubs
    - Water tables
    - Backyard or public splash pads
    - Warm water bottle or misting spray bottle

# Adaptive Swimming – Alert the community

- **Alert your neighbors and local authorities:**
  - Get to know your neighbors and inform them of the risk of wandering/elopement.
  - Visit local authorities and get to know your local emergency responders in a non-emergency situation.
    - Emergency responders can get to know your child and how their disability affects them.

# Adaptive Swimming Resources

- [Autism Society of Minnesota](#)
- [Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute](#): Golden Valley, MN and Stillwater, MN
- Local YMCA/YWCA
- [Brooklyn Center](#) (Adaptive/Aqua Buddies class), [Swim Possible](#), [Foss Swim School](#), [Clownfish Swim Club](#), [Swim 4 Life](#), [Education for All Squid School](#)
- [Water Safety with Miss Dayna](#): (based out of Roanoke, Virginia) Offering a virtual class focusing on the safety concepts around water with a focus on “Where there’s water, I will wait”, “Cellphones down so kids don’t drown”, getting parents and caregivers CPR certified.
  - Sell a kit to use daily in and around water (come with a child’s book on water safety, Colored “Wait here” and “Closed” alerting tape, and A “Waiting Whale” mat.)

# Contact STAR

- Website- [www.mn.gov/star/](http://www.mn.gov/star/) and <https://mn.at4all.com/>
- Email- [star.program@state.mn.us](mailto:star.program@state.mn.us)
- Telephone- 651-201-2640
- Facebook- MN STAR Program. YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@mnstarprogramofficialpage7577AR>

