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KENTUCKY AUTISM
TRAINING CENTER 

Autism and Safety Webinar Series: Wandering

Heidi Cooley-Cook

Learning Agenda

- Tips to help prevent wandering
- Strategies to engage neighbors and community members to be alert and supportive of your loved one
- Resources related to wandering and wandering prevention

Prevalence of Individuals with ASD

1 in 68

March 2014 CDC report
5 times more prevalent in boys
1 in 42 boys
1 in 189 girls

What do we know about autism?

- Knows no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries
- Identify by behaviors not physical characteristics
- Lifelong neurodevelopmental disability
- Varying degrees of severity in different individuals
- Usually affects sensory and motor processing systems of the brain
- Triad of characteristics = social interaction, communication, restricted/repetitive behaviors and interests

Why are we talking about wandering?

- ❖ 7 times more likely than neurotypical peers to have an emergency encounter
- ❖ Estimated that 40% of children with ASD cannot speak
- ❖ 49% of children with ASD attempt to elope = 4x higher than their neurotypical siblings
- ❖ Drowning subsequent to wandering/elopement account for 91% of total U.S. deaths reported in children with ASD ages 14 and younger

Why are we talking about wandering?

- ❖ More than 1/3 of children with ASD who wander are unable to communicate their name, phone number, or address
- ❖ 40% of parents report having suffered sleep disruption due to fear of elopement
- ❖ 8 times more likely than their neurotypical siblings to elope between the ages of 7 & 10
- ❖ 62% of families affected by wandering report choosing not to attend/enjoy activities outside the home

What is wandering?

1. Goal-directed = wandering with the purpose of getting to something
2. Bolting/fleeing = the act of suddenly running or bolting, usually to quickly get away from something
3. Other = nighttime wandering; wandering due to disorientation, boredom, transition or confusion; or the individual simply lose their way/becomes lost

12 WAYS TO PREVENT, AND RESPOND TO, ASD WANDERING

1 Understand & Eliminate

2 Teach Safety

3 Secure Your Home

4 Consider Personal Locator

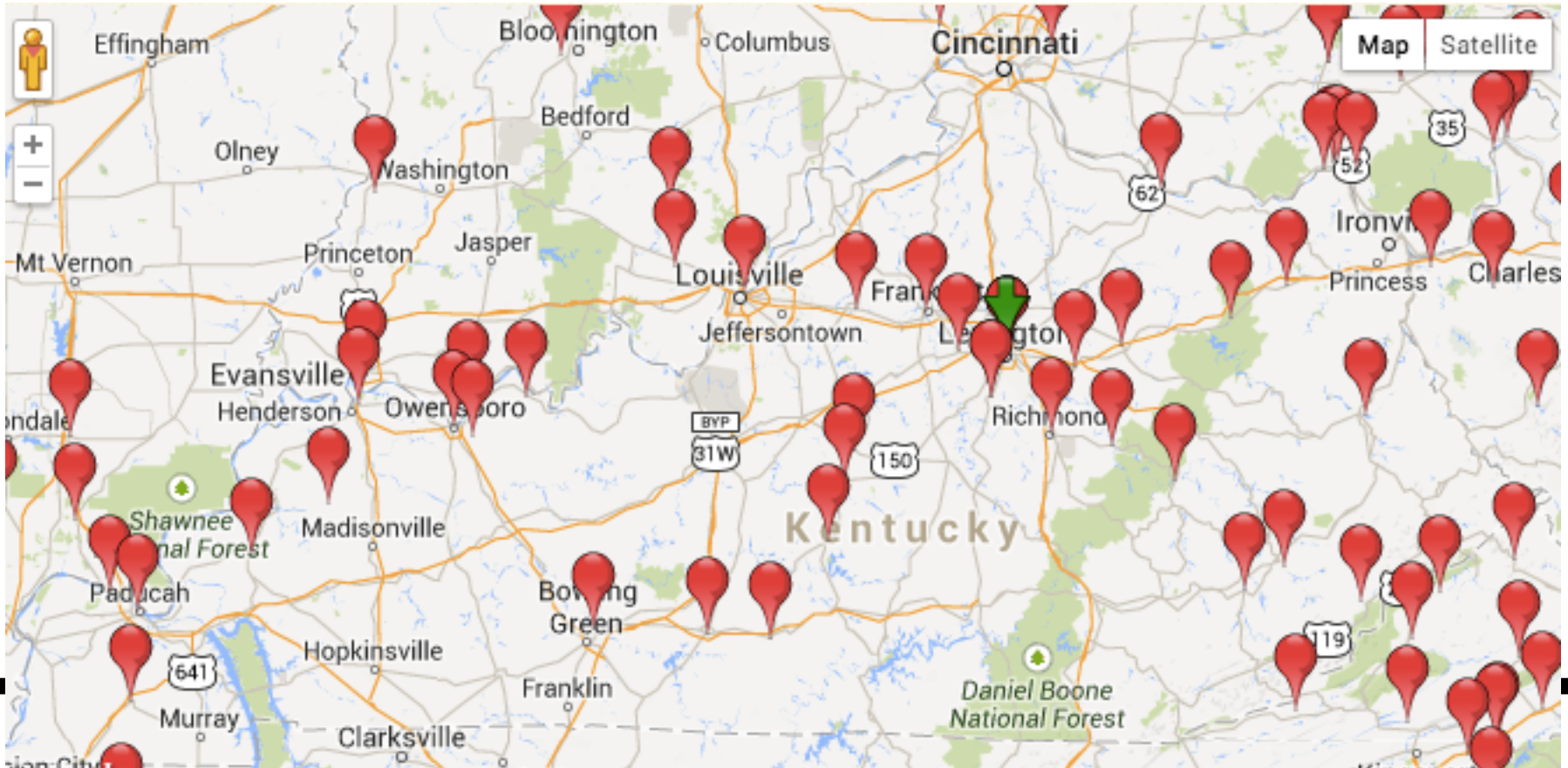
<http://www.autismsafety.org/prevention.php>

Engage Neighbors and Community

- Make a handout that includes an up-to-date photo of your child
- Share this handout with neighbors
- Introduce your child to their neighbors
- Share the handout with local police, firefighter, and EMT
- Introduce your child to First Responders
- Schedule a time to meet with your local First Responders to acclimate your child to the various uniforms, vehicles, sounds, etc

Project Lifesaver

<http://www.projectlifesaver.org/where-we-are/>



LoJack SafetyNet

https://www.safetynetbylojack.com/Caregivers/How_It_Works

Not currently in Kentucky –
Project LifeSaver uses the same technology

Other Resources

www.safetytat.com



www.keepmesafeid.com



www.namebubbles.com



www.qrcodeid.org



Other Resources

www.kidssafetybands.com



<http://4pawsforability.org/autism-assistance-dog/>

www.tattooswithapurpose.com



Lost and Found Tattoo -
Hearts



Resources

National Autism Association
Big Red Safety Toolkit



<http://nationalautismassociation.org/docs/BigRedSafetyToolkit.pdf>

Resources

Safe and Sound
Personal Information
Record for Caregivers
and Emergency
Responders - Includes
Static Cling label for
posting in residence,
vehicle or workplace and
Information Record to
be filled out for caregivers
or emergency personnel.



Autism Society of America
Safe and Sound Static Cling
\$2.50

Yes, we do have a safe and sound personal information record for caregivers and emergency responders. This record is available in both English and Spanish. It includes a static cling label for posting in residence, vehicle or workplace and an information record to be filled out for caregivers or emergency personnel.

ATTENTION: ON-SCENE CAREGIVERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Personal Information Record Form

Safe & Sound

<http://www.autism-society.org/>

Resources

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)



<http://www.missingkids.com/autism>

Resources

- National Autism Association:
<http://nationalautismassociation.org/resources/awaare-wandering/>
- AWAARE Collaboration: <http://awaare.org/>
- Autism Speaks: <http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/autism-safety-project>
- Autism Society: www.autism-society.org

FREE SOURCES FOR THE AUTISM COMMUNITY IN KENTUCKY

UNIVERSITY OF **LOUISVILLE**

KENTUCKY AUTISM
TRAINING CENTER

The mission of the Kentucky Autism Training Center is to strengthen our state's systems of support for persons affected by autism by bridging research to practice and by providing training and resources to families and professionals. KATC is committed to improving the quality of life for those affected by ASD.

NEED HELP?

Looking for resources
and information?
Contact the KATC:

502.852.4631
katc@louisville.edu

[louisville.edu/education/
kyautismtraining](http://louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining)



Website



Newsletter



Kentucky Services and
Supports Directory



Resources for Families,
Educators and Service
Providers



Kentucky's Family Guide to
Autism Spectrum Disorders



Training



Community Awareness
Brochures



Learn the Signs, Act Early
Kentucky



Amanda L. King
Resource Library



Social Media
Facebook, Twitter, YouTube



Webinars



Listserv

Questions?

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