AngelSense

PREVENT WANDERING RELATED TRAGEDIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY



What You Can Do to Impact the Lives of Children at Risk

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THE ELOPEMENT EPIDEMIC

Uncovering the Urgent Reality

Autism continues to impact millions of children and young adults globally. For service coordinators and organizations dedicated to the care and protection of these extraordinary individuals, one of the most pressing challenges we face is dealing with wandering, also known as elopement. It's an issue that demands our immediate attention and innovative solutions.

The Alarming Facts

Wandering is far from a trivial concern. In fact, it's shockingly common among children with autism spectrum disorders. Recent data reveals that, while this behavior tends to peak around age 4, nearly 30% of children with autism between the ages of 7 and 10 still experience wandering. Even more concerning, roughly half of these children who wander end up missing, even in what should be safe, supervised environments.



30%

While this behavior tends to peak at age 4, almost 30% of children with autism between the ages of 7 and 10 still wander.



50%

Half of children who wander go missing, even in safe supervised places.



91%

91% of accidental drowning incidents are children with ASD.

The stakes are incredibly high. Astonishingly, 91% of accidental drowning incidents involve children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This vividly highlights the urgent need for action.

Addressing Misconceptions

To effectively address this issue, we must first dispel damaging misconceptions. The term "wandering" may convey a sense of innocence, implying that a child will return home on their own or be found by a family member or friend. However, this is far from the reality for those with autism. We must understand that these children, engrossed in everyday activities, need a specialized response to ensure their safety.

A detrimental misconception implies that wandering occurs due to inattentive parenting. However, the reality is far more complex. Research reveals that wandering often arises from a mix of goal-oriented and non-goal-oriented motivations.

Children with autism might be drawn toward something of interest, or they may be compelled to flee from sources of anxiety.

When they become fixated on a particular stimulus, they can swiftly become detached from their surroundings, darting away in mere seconds and potentially vanishing into a bustling crowd.

Moreover, children with autism often struggle to assess danger, and many parents have harrowing stories of their children wandering near water bodies or high-traffic areas. These near misses underscore the gravity of this issue.



A Complex Challenge

The reality is that children with autism can wander regardless of location and supervision. Approximately 54% of children wander simply out of a love for exploration, while others are driven by sensory experiences or feelings of overwhelm. What's most concerning is that many families of children with autism receive little guidance on how to manage this pervasive issue.

Proactive Steps and the Role of Public Organizations.

Within the home, various preventive measures can be taken. These include installing alarms and additional locks on doors, setting up video monitoring systems, using outdoor barriers like fences, and having non-verbal children wear ID bracelets. Neighbors can be informed to watch out for the child or contact the police if they're spotted wandering.

However, despite these precautions, children with autism can still slip away unnoticed. Resources are limited, and you can't place locks on every door or be everywhere your child is. They are part of our communities every day,

Yet there are still too few safety measures in place to protect them from wandering, unless public organizations and schools collaborate to be part of the solution.

It's our collective responsibility to raise awareness, offer support, and push for proactive measures to safeguard special needs individualsfacing the challenge of elopement. Together, we can make a profound impact on their safety and well-being.

Nonprofit and government agencies play a crucial role in preventing wandering-related tragedies. Elopement is not an isolated issue; it's a concern that affects our entire community. It is imperative that public institutions, notably schools, take the lead in embracing innovative solutions that have the potential to preserve lives.



Speak to an Expert

Call us at **1-646-770-2950** (Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm EST)
or write us: **orgs@angelsense.com**

WANDERING SAFETY

A Collective Responsibility in the Community

The challenge of wandering and elopement safety is of paramount concern for community agencies, schools, and first responders. **The situation becomes especially critical when more than one-third of wandering children are unable to convey basic information, such as their name, address, or phone number.** In such cases, the responsibility of locating a missing child falls squarely on the organization from which they eloped, with the additional support of parents and local law enforcement, if available.

This places immense pressure on these entities, including schools and community agencies, as they grapple with the need to balance the safety of the eloping child and the supervision of other children in their care. Notably, staff members can't simply abandon their group to search for a missing child, leading to a challenging and often untenable situation. It's not uncommon for parents to resort to legal action

against schools and organizations when their child goes missing, reflecting the frustration of unmet expectations concerning the safety of their loved ones. The collaboration of community agencies, schools, and first responders is crucial to address this pressing issue and ensure the well-being of special needs individuals while alleviating the potential burden on these institutions.

The Impact of Wandering on Other Challenges for Autism Families

Wandering, a significant concern in the realm of challenges faced by autism families, is intricately connected with other critical issues such as bullying.

A shocking 65% of parents report instances of bullying, creating additional hurdles for educators and parents who often lack effective preventive measures.

This concern is particularly pronounced for nonverbal children, intensifying their vulnerability as they struggle to convey distress. Even verbal children with autism may find themselves unable to comprehend the reasons for being targeted or how to seek assistance. This distressing cycle can lead to enduring physical and emotional harm before interventions take place.



1/3

Of ASD children can't communicate



65%

Have been BULLIED

Transportation challenges further compound these issues, affecting the independence of individuals with special needs. Schools and nonprofit organizations, often held liable for resulting damages, must adopt a comprehensive approach that not only addresses elopement but also actively combats bullying.

A collaborative and proactive strategy is essential for creating a secure, supportive, and inclusive environment, fostering independence and resilience in the face of these multifaceted challenges.

Conclusion & What You Can Do

According to a recent study by the American Academy of Pediatrics, nearly half of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) engage in elopement behavior, posing a significant risk of bodily harm. This often leads to traffic accidents and drowning incidents among children with special needs. The study underscores the pressing need for interventions to mitigate elopement risk, support families dealing with this issue, and provide training for child care professionals, educators, and first responders involved in elopement situations.



50%

Half of children with ASD wander or engage in elopement behavior

If you work with special needs families in your community, you're familiar with the dire consequences of wandering. Searching for a missing child demands extensive resources and time, and while safety plans can be developed with the help of community agencies, schools, and law enforcement, swift action is paramount. **Here is where AngelSense steps in, not only providing parents with peace of mind but also showcasing its proven life-saving features.** However, not all parents have access to the necessary insurance coverage for this device.

This is where your agency can make a significant impact. By facilitating access to community resources and applying for grants, you can help bring this technology to more families with special needs children at risk of elopement.

This benefits not only families but the entire community as well, as it:

- **Reduces liability** faced by schools and educators.
- **Minimizes resources** expended by law enforcement and first responders in locating wandering children.
- **Empowers parents** to safeguard their children effectively.

By mitigating the risk of child wandering in your community, you can make a substantial positive impact on safety and well-being for all involved.

Connecting Families to Community Resources

Agencies supporting parents of special needs children often operate on tight budgets. However, they have access to funding through government programs, grants, and community support that individual parents may not understand how to access.

This is especially significant because schools and care organizations dedicated to special needs children often lack the capacity to adequately address the distinctive needs of children with autism.

The role of agencies in facilitating funding becomes pivotal in bridging this gap. While certain parents may be fortunate to have insurance coverage, a significant number face financial constraints that hinder their access to the life-saving benefits of **AngelSense Assistive Technology**, a powerful response to the dangers of elopement and wandering.



AngelSense, with its innovative features, empowers parents and caregivers to provide essential protection for their special needs children who have a tendency to wander, elope or to hide. The remarkable track record of AngelSense, in consistently saving lives by providing continuous location monitoring with AI-powered alerts, highlights the foremost importance of deploying these life-saving tools, **uniting our efforts to safeguard every child within the autism & special needs community.**





ANGELSENSE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Maximum Safety, Remote Support & Independence

AI-Powered Alerts

Wide range of proactive alerts to be ahead of any potential emergency

Live GPS Tracking

Continuous monitoring with live location & detailed daily timelines

Assistive Speakerphone

2-way voice with auto answer, and an SOS call request button

Safe Ride Monitoring

Unexpected delay & stop alerts, max speed, ETA, & more

Emergency Search Tools

Advanced features to help immediately locate your loved one

Late Arrival & Departure

Be alerted to any changes in your loved one's schedule

DISCOVER ALL FEATURES



If you are a government or nonprofit agency dedicated to supporting special needs parents or enhancing the safety of special needs children in your community, AngelSense offers you the capability to provide essential protection for the children and families you serve.

Join the numerous agencies across the nation that have already harnessed the power of AngelSense as a groundbreaking assistive technology, empowering families within their communities to ensure the safety of special children.

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