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Summer Safety Suggestions

Autism Service Dogs

A service dog can be a great addition to the family to help children with autism stay safe.

Dogs can be trained to prevent self-harming, help with balance and motor control, alert to important sounds, and steer around obstacles. In addition to helping to ease sensory overload, an autism service dog can be there for emotional support AND help prevent wandering and elopement. Children on the autism spectrum are 4 times more likely than their non-spectrum siblings to "wander" or bolt impulsively - which can be dangerous depending on the circumstances.

Here is a [list of autism service dog providers in California](#) from Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks also has recommended resources to prevent wandering and other summer safety tips on their [website](#).

See our Research section below for additional information about wandering & elopement research.



Be Safe and Have Fun Together

In the summer months, grandparents typically have more time to spend with their grandchildren. Here are some good resources for safety tips for everyone and especially when you engage in recreational activities or outings together. There are more suggestions on our website, [here](#).

- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has a [Drowning Prevention web page](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](#) has topics such as playground safety, drowning, burn prevention, road safety and much more. There is also a downloadable coloring book called [Color Me Safe!](#)
- The American Red Cross has a [Disaster and Safety Library](#) to assist you in preparing your home, school and workplace in the event of a disaster or emergency. There are preparedness checklists, recovery guides and other helpful information to keep you informed and safe.

Safety Applications

- [Dial Safe Pro](#) (Practice 911 Calls) - FREE! Teach your child proper phone usage and safety with an app that lets them actually practice it.
- [The American Red Cross](#) has a group of free apps for safety and disaster preparedness. All titles are FREE, including **First Aid**, **Pet First Aid**, **Emergency Alerts**, and **Earthquake Preparedness**.



Fun Apps for the Summer

Cooking Together

Here's another resource to help you to interact with your grandchildren and also teach them some healthy eating habits and independent living skills.

[Cooking Fun for Kids: Healthy Playful Recipes, Food Games, and Videos for Kids in the Kitchen by Bean Sprouts](#) (FREE)

The Bean Sprouts Cooking Fun for Kids app is filled with fun and healthy kid-friendly recipes, videos, games, books, photos and puzzles designed to empower, entertain and educate kids to cook and eat healthfully.



Elopement & Wandering

A 2012 study from the Interactive Autism Network at the Kennedy Krieger Institute determined that parents reported nearly half of children with ASD between the ages of 4 and 17 had attempted to elope at least once. As a result of these findings, IAN is now sponsoring a new Elopement Patterns and Caregiver Strategies Research Study. All parents of children with ASD ages 4 and up and legal representatives of adults ages 18 and older are encouraged to participate online, regardless if there is a history of elopement or not. Please go to this link <http://faninfo.org/resource/elopement-patterns-caregiver-strategies-research-study/> to enroll in the study.

The University of California at Irvine (UCI) is also conducting a free Social skills Training with Dogs study that you may be eligible to participate in. The study involves weekly social skills training with therapy dogs for children with ASD between the ages of 7 and 9. You can contact Theresa Cordia at the UCI Child Development Center at 949-824-8733. [Download the flyer.](#)

Participate in ASD Research

The Interactive Autism Network connects researchers to people with autism spectrum disorders and their families; you can participate in research online in the comfort of your own home. [Check out their website](#) to see what research participation opportunities are available.

Advocacy

Increasing Adult Autism Health Care Providers in Your Community

Finding medical services for adults with ASD is challenging in virtually every community. Few doctors have received training in autism and even resources for adult testing for ASD are difficult to locate. Family members, however, find it difficult to get referrals to local physicians and psychiatrists with autism expertise for treating adults because there are very few qualified to provide the needed care. Current surveys indicate that doctors want more autism training to address the gap in providing medical care from pediatric to adult care.

Please inquire about existing medical care resources for adults with ASD in your area. If not available, encourage local autism service providers and universities to develop training programs for professionals to learn more about how to treat the emerging adult population.

eBay Donations



Grandparents have lots of "stuff" like collectibles, unused gifts and household goods, clothing, vintage jewelry and things in good condition that our families "do not want."

Your "stuff" can benefit other grandparents and families affected by autism. The Grandparent Autism Network welcomes donated goods.

You can drop off tax deductible items at Jay's Catering, 10581 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden

Grove, CA - or send them C/O GAN at 23785 El Toro Road, #103, Lake Forest, CA 92630 (USPS flat rate boxes may lower mailing costs!)

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**Networking together,
grandparents are a vital
resource for autism...
and each other!**