You’ve received your Autism & Safety Kit, now let’s review how to use it!
Safety kit supplies
Water safety supplies
The Autism & Safety Kit includes a water safety brochure.

This brochure will give caregivers facts and signs about drowning and strategies to minimize risks, including the “3C’s (Close and constant supervision, Cut out distractions, CPR certification) to keep an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) safe around water. Additional resources are included in the brochure.

A water watcher badge is also included in the kit.

The adult supervising the area where children are playing around a water source will wear this badge. When the supervising adult needs to take a break, another adult will take the responsibility to supervise and wear the badge.
Elopement Safety

Elopement can be defined as when an individual with a developmental disability walks or runs away, wanders, escapes, or otherwise leaves a safe environment unsupervised or unnoticed. Elopement is a dangerous and sometimes deadly situation.
The Autism & Safety Kit provides **stop signs and an alarm** to place on doors or windows. The stop sign can be used as a preventative strategy and create a routine of how to leave one area to go to another. The supervising adult will need to explain to the child:

“When you see a stop sign, do not open the door or walk through it without checking in with an adult. ‘Checking in’ means to find an adult and tell or show the adult you would like to go into another room or go outside to play.”

Some children may need to practice the behavior of seeking out an adult when they see the stop sign. The door alarm is a tool to alert an adult when an individual is opening a door to an unsupervised area.

Check with law enforcement in your community to find a program designed to protect and locate missing persons due to wandering. [http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/resources/materials/safety.html](http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/resources/materials/safety.html)
Poison Prevention

First Aid for Poisonings
Call the Poison Center today for further instructions!

Poisons on the Skin
- Remove any clothing or other items contaminated with poison.
- Wash skin with soap and water.

Poison in the Eye
- Wash eye with water in a gentle motion.

Inhaled Poison
- Take deep breaths in an area with fresh air.

Poison in the Mouth
- Rinse mouth with water or milk.

Syrup of Ipecac
- This is a medicine that helps to make a person vomit.

Activated Charcoal
- This medicine is used to help to stop up some poisons from getting into the body.

Poison Help
1-800-222-1222
ASD and Pica

Many individuals with ASD have experienced pica. Pica is characterized by persistent and compulsive cravings to eat nonfood items. This often increases the likelihood of accidental poisoning. Children with ASD experience treatment from poisoning 7.6 times more frequently than their typically developing peers.

The Autism & Safety Kit includes information from Poison Control.

1. A checklist of items to secure in order to prevent poisoning in the home.

2. First aid information on how to respond to different types of poisoning.

Add the telephone number to Poison Control to your phone or address book right now: **1-800-222-1222**.
Emergency Information
It’s important to keep everyone informed about what to do in an emergency!

The Autism & Safety Kit provides three items to inform the people surrounding the individual with ASD of important emergency contacts and the needs of the individual during an emergency. These could include:

1. A Babysitter’s Emergency Guide
2. An Autism & Safety information magnet
3. A MediPal®
Another item the Autism & Safety Kit provides is a MediPal®.

This is designed to attach to the seatbelt in your car, a backpack strap, a belt or a wheelchair. There is a Health Profile insert to complete detailing the individual’s important information, and a photo in order for a first responder to assess and intervene in a way that is sensitive to the individual’s needs. Instructions and tips are included in the package.
Sensory Items
The Autism & Safety Kit may include sensory items like a stress ball or fidget.
Any Questions?
Still have questions...???

The Autism & Safety Kit is a preliminary tool to address concerns about safety involving an individual with ASD.

Visit our online resources http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/resources/materials/safety.html for additional safety tips and strategies.

Families should contact CARD–USF (813-974-2532, or 1-800-333-4530) and request to speak with a Consultant to develop and implement a plan to address safety concerns.
Florida’s First Choice for Autism Support

For More Information

Phone
(813) 974-2532
1-800-333-4530

Website
http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu

Email
card-usf@usf.edu

CARD is a program of

Florida Center for Inclusive Communities

University of South Florida
College of Behavioral & Community Sciences