



Project Lifesaver of Washington County, Maryland
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Below is a list of suggestions for preventing and preparing for wandering behavior. This list was compiled using the following resources: Alzheimer's Association, Autism Society, The Special Needs Child and other books from libraries and bookstores.

- Place locks out of reach or out of sight.
- Install slide bolts at the top and bottom of doors.
- Use dead bolt locks.
- Consider using a double-bolt lock, making sure that the key is readily available in case of an emergency.
- Cover doorknobs to make turning more difficult. Add child plastic covers or socks so that only the cover turns and not the knob.
- Place warning bells above doors or on doorknobs.
- Install a security system that monitors entering and exiting exterior doors.
- Use signs or labels to explain the purpose of each room. Discourage entry to specific rooms by labeling the doors. Examples: "Do not enter," "NO!" or "Stop!"
- Camouflage doors by painting them the color of the walls or drape curtains over doors.
- Paint a large black threshold in front of the door. This may appear to be an impassable hole to the person.

- Place a pressure sensitive mat at the door or person's bedside that sounds an alarm to alert you to movement.
- Secure all outside fences with locks.
- Disengage the garage door opener.
- Take your car to the mechanic or dealer to have the inside door handle removed on one side only.
- Check your local baby store for buckle guards.
- Inform your neighbors about your family member's wandering behaviors and ensure that they have your phone number in case they see them outside without supervision.