


SAFETY CONCERNS


WANDERING/ELOPMENT

 48% of children with an ASD attempt to elope from a safe environment, a rate nearly four times higher than their unaffected siblings

 More than one third of ASD children who wander/elope are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address, or phone number

RESTRAINT & SECLUSION

 Currently there is no federal law that prohibits the use of restraints that restrict breathing, and locked seclusion, in public and private schools.

 A 2009 Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation reported that thousands of students with disabilities have been physically injured and emotionally traumatized as a result of restraint and seclusion.

Some of the Dangers of Restraint & Seclusion Include:

Increased aggression	Depression/Withdrawal
Bodily Injury	Decreased Appetite & Malnutrition
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	Anxiety
Increased Phobias	Humiliation
Sleeping Problems	Loss of Dignity

BULLYING

63%

of children with ASD, ages 6 to 15, have been bullied at some point in their lives



47% of parents reported that their children with ASD had been hit by peers or siblings

50%



of parents reported that their children with ASD were scared by their peers

7 STEPS TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST BULLYING



(1) Start the Conversation

Help your child understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate treatment from classmates; and encourage them to share their feelings.



(2) Develop a Plan

Bullying can affect a child's learning environment. Your child's IEP can be a helpful tool in combating bullying. Identify prevention and intervention strategies.



(3) Teach Tolerance

Teach students about the effects bullying has on others and encourage them to celebrate differences.



(4) Increase Awareness and Acceptance

Increase awareness and acceptance through education. Some parents find that if classmates understand a child's disability, they may become allies or be more accepting.



(5) Encourage Self-Advocacy

Teach your child to advocate for themselves to the best of their abilities. Teaching self-advocacy can be included in your child's IEP.



(6) Learn Your Rights

Most states have laws concerning bullying, and some have specific laws regarding bullying of children with special needs. Knowing them can be useful in the event of a bullying incident.



(7) Speak Up

Whether a child is being bullied, or is the one doing the bullying, if you see or know something, say something.