Autism Society

Autism Society's Water Safety Initiative: HollyRod Foundation Collaboration

The Autism Society of America teamed up with HollyRod Foundation to develop a companion to Charlie Makes a Splash, a children's book describing the solace and empowerment aquatic environments bring to many individuals with Autism. Included in this pack are water safety checklists for caregivers and individuals with Autism. In addition, there are social narratives that include key water safety rules that correspond to the water environments described in Charlie Makes a Splash. The Autism Society of America is committed to supporting water safety and wandering prevention.

Autism and Water Safety

49% of individuals with Autism wander from a safe environment and 24% of those individuals experienced a close call with drowning. Additionally, a person with Autism is 160x more likely to drown than their neurotypical peer. The rattling statistics reinforce the undeniable need for water safety skills, preventative wandering strategies, and optimum safety around the aquatic environment.

The Autism Society of America is leading a national effort to prevent water and wandering related deaths through proactive programming, public awareness, and public policy. Together, with community agencies, law enforcement, and members of the Autistic community, the Autism Society of America is identifying and developing best practices to improve the safety and lives of those living with Autism.