

# Trusted Neighbor 101



**Developing trusting relationships with those in your neighborhood can be helpful as you consider strategies for keeping your loved one with Autism safe.**

Trusted neighbors, familiar with neighborhood routines and close by in emergencies, serve as valuable resources to help create a sense of community and safety for those with Autism and their caregivers.

**After you've identified which neighbors to include in your safety plan, consider talking to the neighbor, sharing your safety concerns, and asking for their help in your safety plan.**

Be specific about how you'd like them to help. If a neighbor agrees to help, introduce your loved one to the neighbors and facilitate a familiar relationship as much as possible.

## **How Neighbors Can Help in a Safety Plan:**

- Watch for loved ones leaving their home without a guardian.
- Help search for an individual if they are missing.
- Act as a safe place an individual can go in emergencies.

## **What Information to Consider Sharing with Trusted Neighbors:**

- [Emergency Identification Sheet](#)
- [Wandering Letter](#)
- Tendencies / what is typical for them
- Likes / dislikes
- Sensory Information – what is comforting and what can be triggering?
- Who to call if the neighbor sees something concerning or if they see the individual alone without a guardian, or with someone they haven't seen before
- Guidance for ways to interact with individual