Know the SAFE STEPS of Water Safety

Secure the environment

Remove any potential risks from the environment.
Add child proof locks for all doors and windows to prevent wandering/elopement.

Alarms for doors and windows

Choose alarms that will sound until the exit point has been resealed.

Fence property and bodies of water

Fence off all bodies of water on your property. Put a fence around your property if possible.
Make sure gates are self-closing.

Engage law enforcement

Register your child with local law enforcement. Set up meeting with local patrols.
If your child goes missing CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.

Support network/search party

Collect phone numbers of trusted neighbors to contact if your child goes missing.
Ask HOA to set up a volunteer search team. ALWAYS CHECK WATER FIRST.

Tracking device

Tracking devices are a critical piece of finding your child quickly!
Contact your ASD specialist with CARD to discuss which option is right for your situation.

Educate – never enter water alone

Have a plan in place to teach your child to never enter water alone.
Contact your ASD specialist with CARD to discuss a personalized teaching program.

Practice

Practice stopping at water and waiting for permission to enter.
Make this a part of your daily routine.

Swimming lessons

Enroll your child in high quality survival swimming lessons right away.
CARD can help you find the right provider for you!

Swim PALS
AUTISM WATER SAFETY INITIATIVE

PALS
PROVIDING AUTISM LINKS & SUPPORT

UCF | Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

ucf-card.org