DRAFT Safety / Wandering Questions to consider

Pg. 1 questions added to NSCSCHN Follow-up study (Pathways) for 2011 (rep sample of about 4,000 children diagnosed with ASD, ID, and/or DD).

I am going to read a list of activities that [SC] may be able to do independently, may be able to do with help, or may not be able to do.   For each one, please tell me how capable (he/she) is when doing the following activities?

e.   Providing (his/her) name, address, and phone number if asked

(1)   CAN DO INDEPENDENTLY

(2)   CAN DO WITH HELP

(3)   CANNOT DO

(4)   NEVER TRIED

Some children with learning and developmental conditions are likely to wander off and become so lost that it is necessary to search for them. I am going to read a list of places. Please tell me if [SC] wandered off or became lost from any of these places within the past year, even if it occurred just once.

a.   From your home?

b.   From someone else's home such as a relative, friend, neighbor, or babysitter?

c.   From school, day care, or summer camp?

d.   From a store, restaurant, playground, campsite, or any other public place?

YES/NO/DK/RF

Have you added fences, gates, locks, alarms, or other barriers to your home in an effort to prevent [SC] from wandering off or becoming lost?

YES/NO/DK/RF

Within the past year, has [SC] worn a tracking device to help you find (him/her) if (he/she) wandered off?

YES/NO/DK/RF

How often do concerns about your child's potential to wander affect your plans for how you manage your family's activities:

   a) Never or rarely

   b) several times a year

   c) several times a month

   d) several times a week

   e) several times a day

YES/NO/DK

Does [SC] need more supervision to keep him/her safe and uninjured than is usual for most children of the same age?

I am going to read several questions about related types of behaviors. For each one, please tell me if these behaviors were present during the past 6 months.

   a. Can't locate a safe authority figure to get help if lost
   b. Can't state full name, phone number, or address
   c. Walks about aimlessly*
   d. Gets lost*
   e. Walks away from caregivers in public places
   f. Runs off*
   g. Returned after leaving authorized area*
   h. Attempts to leave authorized area*
   i. Enters unauthorized areas*
   j. Gets up and walks during the night* ← This gets at most of the sleep/wake cycle issues but it may be interesting to add another element specifically targeted towards sleep patterns (because this could also imply sleep walking) ie: Doesn't sleep through the night or frequently sleeps during the day

In the past 6 months, have you been concerned about any of the following:
YES/NO/DK/RF
   a.   He/she will do something on purpose to cause physical harm or injury to him or herself

b. He/she will do something accidentally to cause physical harm or injury to him or herself

c. He/she is likely to follow a stranger's directions, even if it may not be safe

d. He/she is likely to wander off in a public or unsafe setting

e. He/she is likely to become lost so that it would be necessary to search for [SC]

Has any of the following *ever* happened to [SC]?
YES/NO/DK/RF

a. He/she has done something on purpose to cause physical harm or injury to him or herself

b. He/she has done something accidentally to cause physical harm or injury to him or herself

c. He/she has followed a stranger's directions, even if it may not be safe

d. He/she has wandered off in a public or unsafe setting

e. He/she has become lost so that it was necessary to search for [SC]

If yes to any of a-e, then ask for each:

What specifically happened? Describe briefly. [how to get at circumstances, unlocked door, opened lock, etc.]

When did this happen?

a...Within the last year

b. ....More than a year ago

c...Both within the last year
more than a year ago

Was [SC] hurt or injured? Y/N

If yes, what type of injury

Were other people called to assist? If so, which people?

a. ....Other family

b...Teachers or school personnel

c. ....Neighbors or other community members

d...Store employees

e. ....Authorities such as police or fire

If yes to d or e, then ask for each:

Did [SC] wander off or become lost from any of the following places

a...Home where [SC] lives

b. ....Another home (relative,
    friend, sitter, residential home)

c...School

d. ....Community (store,
    restaurant, park, etc.)

e...Other

Are any of the following reasons why [SC] wandered off or became lost?

a. ....[SC] was trying to get away
    from something (noise, request to do something, etc.)

b...[SC] was trying to get
    something (food, object, activity)

c. ....Other reason, specify:

d...Unsure

Children with learning and developmental conditions work with may have challenges with safety issues. Have you ever done any of the following as a precaution to keep (SC) safe from harm or injury?

    a.   Sought professional assistance from health care providers, therapists, school professionals, or law enforcement regarding [SC]

    b.   Added additional barriers in the home (gates, locks, alarms)

    c.   Specifically taught safety skills to [SC]

    d.   Added monitoring and/or tracking systems to [SC's] person or personal space (bed occupancy detectors, baby monitors, GPS tracking devices)?

For each of the above, have these measures been helpful in preventing future incidents?

Y/N

If no, why not?

*elopement items from

Donna L. Algase, Elizabeth R. A. Beattie, Erna-Lynne Bogue and Lan Yao

The Algase wandering scale: Initial psychometrics of a new caregiver reporting tool. *AM J ALZHEIMERS DIS OTHER DEMEN* 2001 16: 141

Also may be interesting to look into:

Characteristics for potential wandering risks:

a. Aloof, Mobile, No Practical Skills
b. Aloof, Mobile, with Some Sills
c. Passive, Mobile, with Some Skills
d. Active but Odd and One-Sided Social Approaches, Mobile, with Some Skills