

## Elopement-Prevention Planning and Ideas

### First: There's hope! From one Howard County DSAmD parent:

"My happy wanderer outgrew eloping around age 12. We've got stories we can laugh about now—20 years later."

#### 1. Short-Term Safety.

##### a. **Bed Suggestions:**

- i. Bed tent device: <https://safeplacebedding.com>

##### b. **Lock suggestions:**

###### i. Doors.

1. keyed deadbolts
2. deadbolts installed high up:  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00BBF7UVA/ref=redir\\_mobile\\_desktop?\\_encoding=UTF8&fbclid=IwAR1Tv8QY2wttri3F2JiPOIE74dB2SyLO75cl4QspUik1cLA1R2iovsh57wPI&psc=1&ref=ppx\\_pop\\_mob\\_b\\_asin\\_title](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00BBF7UVA/ref=redir_mobile_desktop?_encoding=UTF8&fbclid=IwAR1Tv8QY2wttri3F2JiPOIE74dB2SyLO75cl4QspUik1cLA1R2iovsh57wPI&psc=1&ref=ppx_pop_mob_b_asin_title)
3. hook and eye hooks, installed up high
4. door knob cover locks: [https://www.amazon.com/KidCO-Count-Door-Knob-Lock/dp/B0010CD2IO?ref=ast\\_sto\\_dp](https://www.amazon.com/KidCO-Count-Door-Knob-Lock/dp/B0010CD2IO?ref=ast_sto_dp)
  - a. on inside of door
  - b. on outside of door
5. inward-swinging door blocker:  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B004RL1IMC?ref=ppx\\_pop\\_mob\\_ap\\_share&fbclid=IwAR0K4gWh8SKsvjaxvppk1xM7yDxo6KwApnFHpnxEdto8\\_456x-tKkQn1sE](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B004RL1IMC?ref=ppx_pop_mob_ap_share&fbclid=IwAR0K4gWh8SKsvjaxvppk1xM7yDxo6KwApnFHpnxEdto8_456x-tKkQn1sE)

###### ii. Windows.

1. Window wedge:  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07CZ2DM3S/ref=redir\\_mobile\\_desktop?\\_encoding=UTF8&fbclid=IwAR1ZNAfSUxU9AJjEsVtxphGU-LhLoALCJ4jk8eu5XTwFn\\_CAB6mZxC\\_1r68&psc=1&ref=ppx\\_pop\\_mob\\_b\\_asin\\_title](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07CZ2DM3S/ref=redir_mobile_desktop?_encoding=UTF8&fbclid=IwAR1ZNAfSUxU9AJjEsVtxphGU-LhLoALCJ4jk8eu5XTwFn_CAB6mZxC_1r68&psc=1&ref=ppx_pop_mob_b_asin_title)

##### c. **Alarms:**

- i. Pool gate alarm for sliding doors – mounted to top of door
- ii. Sticky, battery-operated alarms
- iii.

**d. Cameras:**

- i. Blink camera: [https://www.amazon.com/Blink-Mini-White-2Cam/dp/B07X27VK3D/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?keywords=Blink&qid=1686343989&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Blink-Mini-White-2Cam/dp/B07X27VK3D/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=Blink&qid=1686343989&sr=8-2)
- ii. RING devices including door sensors which can be linked to your phone
- iii. Motion-sensor camera, Vivint. <https://www.vivint.com/products/ping>

**e. Tracking devices for safety:**

- i. Jiobit: <https://www.jiobit.com/product>
- ii. Smart Watch-like device from Theora: <https://projectlifesaver.org/locating-technology/theora/>
- iii. Angelsense:  
[https://www.angelsense.com/pricing/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=sch\\_branded-eng\\_US&utm\\_content=AngelSense%20-%20Branded%20Search%20Terms%20-%20Phrase&utm\\_ad=622896075585&utm\\_term=angelsense&matchtype=p&device=c&GeoLoc=9007913&placement=&network=g&campaign\\_id=214987221&adset\\_id=26330619861&ad\\_id=622896075585&gclid=CjwKCAjwm4ukBhAuEiwA0zQxk7fLQ08SKBNSQY8JRSC55Tz9D1Bd8EG8c1tzHbd-P4CnOEb7ORChHxoCuKIQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.angelsense.com/pricing/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=sch_branded-eng_US&utm_content=AngelSense%20-%20Branded%20Search%20Terms%20-%20Phrase&utm_ad=622896075585&utm_term=angelsense&matchtype=p&device=c&GeoLoc=9007913&placement=&network=g&campaign_id=214987221&adset_id=26330619861&ad_id=622896075585&gclid=CjwKCAjwm4ukBhAuEiwA0zQxk7fLQ08SKBNSQY8JRSC55Tz9D1Bd8EG8c1tzHbd-P4CnOEb7ORChHxoCuKIQAvD_BwE)

**f. Notify the team.**

- i. Consider calling your local police station and notifying them of the risk of wandering, if you are comfortable doing so.
- ii. Child ID app: [https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/child\\_080511/child-id-app](https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/child_080511/child-id-app)
- iii. Let neighbors know. [Here's an example of a form to share with neighbors from Pathfinders for Autism.](#)

**g. For traveling...**

- i. Set up a tent indoors when traveling (even a single person one)
- ii. Put bells on hair ties and wrap around door handles
- iii. Battery-operated, sticky door chimes

## 2. Long(er) Term Safety.

### a. **Conversation and Distraction. Suggestions here:**

“I’d suggest adding some conversations with your guy to the mix. I spent about two years talking to my child about not leaving the house without telling one of us. I told him he could leave the house but not beyond the property. We walked the perimeter of our property multiple times so he’d know where the boundaries were. I pointed out the neighbors he could go to if he needed help. Don’t underestimate his ability. It’ll take time but he is listening.”

“We had rewards for no eloping. Certain number of days and she’d get a treasure.”

“We found stop signs helpful.”

“At home we play a lot of red light / green light to work on listening, if I can anticipate eloping I’ll start playing that and we can typically refocus and avoid.”

“Give him a job; distraction works wonders.”

### b. **Fencing.**

- i. If possible, consider a fence. LISS and DDA can help with costs potentially. [See DSAmd’s LISS FAQ here.](#) [Contact Maryland DDA here.](#)

### c. **Bed Suggestions:**

- i. Bed tent device: <https://safeplacebedding.com>

### d. **Service dog. (Can be very costly.)**

### e. **Wristbands with important info.**

- i. Alert Me Bands: [https://www.alertmebands.com/?post\\_type=product](https://www.alertmebands.com/?post_type=product)
- ii. RoadID bracelet: <https://www.roadid.com/pages/shop-road-id>