



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is proud to announce the release of Think Safety, a Web site where members of the autism community can ask questions, give answers, offer advice, and share experiences.

With the release of *Life Journey Through Autism: A Guide to Safety* last December, OAR took its first step toward supporting the autism community's safety needs and empowering those in the community with evidence-based autism resources. Think Safety is the next step toward this reaching this goal. Thanks to the generous help of the JPMorgan Chase Force for Good team, Think Safety promises to be a resource that will address this ongoing need.

Think Safety is organized around a series of message boards accessible for any visitor to the site. The message boards are divided based on age: childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, similar to the sequence of *A Guide to Safety*. There are spaces for users to discuss specific topics in smaller groups, including wandering and elopement, crisis planning and prevention, bullying, and workplace safety. The forums are visible to all, but to share ideas and participate, one must create a Think Safety user account. The Web site also contains a direct messaging feature, which allow users to have private conversations.

Along with the message boards, Think Safety offers the same guidance, advice, and information contained in *Life Journey Through Autism: A Guide to Safety*, as well as the option to request a hard copy guide. Along with those resources, the Web site also features autism safety videos, worksheets, and other external safety resources. OAR plans to update and maintain Think Safety with the latest in autism safety information.

This resource is available at <http://www.thinkautismsafety.org>. To request information or discuss Think Safety, please contact Wendy McKinnon, Programs and Outreach Associate, at 703-243-3466 or safety@researchautism.org.

About OAR:

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national nonprofit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions.

About JPMorgan Chase Force for Good:

Force for Good is a social innovation program organized by JPMorgan Chase's Technology for Social Good team. The program pairs creative, motivated, and diverse project teams with organizations that require technological expertise to drive their programs and initiatives forward.

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