

AIRPORT TRAVEL

These recommendations and tips will help you make airport travel less stressful.

Going Through TSA Security

A week before you go, call TSA Cares at 1-855-787-2227 to let them know you have a child with a disability coming through. Tell them what disabilities and sensitivity they have, and if you are bringing equipment or blended diet foods, tell them everything. They will note it in the system and have someone ready to help walk you when you arrive. This would be an excellent time to have a doctor's note handy with all the equipment and disabilities listed and a copy of your child's birth certificate. It's better to be prepared and make it as smooth as possible.

If you don't want to do TSA regular screening, then look into TSA pre-check.

TSA Pre-Check

With TSA pre-check, you can keep everything in your bag... like your laptop and toiletries

You don't have to take your shoes, belts, and jackets off. That makes it more comfortable for our kids.

Pre-check also illuminated more of you being pulled to the side and searched like you sometimes do during regular TSA screening. They still might bomb residue check the child or go over the wheelchair but not as bad. Also, if you as the parent have a pre-check, you get anyone under 18 free with you. So there is no need to pay extra for your child.



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Gate Check In & Boarding

Once through security, take a moment to wipe down your bags and wash your hands. Then head to your gate. Once you get to your gate, go up to the desk and let them know you have medical equipment. Sometimes they like to make sure your oxygen concentrate is approved for flying (https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/cabin_safety/portable_oxygen), and you need 2 times the battery life of the plane ride. Once you do that, they will check and have your board as one of the first people, then family boarding, and then regular boarding, but be sure to check into the desk to make sure you are added to the early board list.

On The Plane

Now you are at your seat, take time to wipe everything down. You have time because you have early boarding. Then get everyone seated. Let the kids know you are about to take off and that it could be bumpy and their ears could pop, and that it's ok and not to be scared. We take pacifiers, suckers, chewy sticks, and try Earplane Earplugs.

Once in the air, encourage them to look out the window; this is a great way to talk about the weather or make a game of it by asking if they can spot their house or school (what else they see). Most importantly, enjoy your child's excitement of taking a new form of transportation.



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Airport Helpful Resources

- [Car seat travel cart](#)
- [Car Seat cover](#)
- [Stroller cover](#)
- [Earplane Earplugs](#)
- [TSA- TSA PreCheck®](#)

