

Precious Cargo Aboard



Tricia Gonzalez – January 2012

Family vacations are a time to slow down our busy lives and create memories for a lifetime. But air travel with children can sometimes throw a wrench into the fun. Don't spoil the event- be prepared with these helpful tips from a (Mom/Dad) that's been there, done that.

Schedule flights for the morning. Likelihood for these to be delayed are slimmer. Plus, your little energizer bunny will be ready to take his or her nap once on board. If you can't leave in the morning, try to schedule the flight around your child's naptime.

Shoot for direct flights. With any luck, your little one may sleep through a good portion of the trip.

Get there early if your little one is walking. Let them burn off some energy. Plus, they won't feel too restricted if they were mobile before getting on the plane. I can't tell you how many airport gate areas I've walked up and down before a flight (or during a connection).

Grab bulkhead seats, if possible. You won't have to worry about your normally well behaved little angels getting dirty looks from the passenger in front because of them kicking or bumping into their seat.

It is recommended that children sit in their own car seat during air travel even though infants through age 2 can fly free on an adult's lap. Keep in mind in an emergency and during air turbulence, your infant can easily be thrown out of your arms.

Security checkpoint- go through the family line. This is usually the same line as used by airline security. Children under 12 no longer have to remove their shoes going through security.

Also, follow the TSA guidelines for liquids and other essentials and you'll be golden. Check it out:

<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/children>.

Happy Children/Happy Flight

Sit back and enjoy!

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