



FLY WITH A TODDLER AND
DON'T LOSE YOUR MIND





A struggle with all of the airport procedures is a challenge in itself. But doing this with a fussy toddler in one hand and lots of luggage in the other is not something that any parent can possibly look forward to.

That's why we've prepared a few tips on how to fly with a toddler and **not lose your mind**.

BUY YOUR CHILD HIS OR HER OWN SEAT ON THE PLANE

Although kids under age two can fly for free if they sit in a parent's lap, a squirmy kid can make both of you exhausted a long time before you reach your destination. Trust us, it will be much more comfortable for both of you.






Having his own seat, your toddler will be able to fall asleep quicker and sleep longer. If he is in your lap, you can't lower the tray table, which makes it much more difficult to play with toys, watch movies or even read on the way.

PACKING

Once you book a flight you have to pack everything that you'll need during the flight.

For this check, out our [Travelling with a Toddler Checklist](#).

REMEMBER

-  Check in and secure your seat assignment online before you leave for the airport (if it's possible)
-  Check if you need and/or can use your regular car seat or have to arrange another seat for your toddler
-  For older kids, you can buy special seat belts to make sure they don't slip out of the standard ones
-  Print the boarding passes & put them in your carry on!
-  You can also check the airport's website if there are any play areas for kids



AIRPORT SECURITY WITH KIDS

Explain to your child exactly what will happen at the security checkpoint.

If there is a **family lane**, use it! At most airports, the family lane has extra agents to help families gather their belongings and often there is a little bit of extra space where children can put on shoes.

Keep your **tickets and ID** in an easily accessible place until you board the plane.

AFTER SECURITY

Your kid has dealt (or not) with a lot of challenges until this point. Take care of her needs now.



Get her a (non sugary!) snack, change diapers or visit the restroom, and **spend a little time exploring together**. Now is also the time to wear your kid out so that they will sleep on the plane.







Many airports have a **play area**, but if yours doesn't there is often an empty gate area to play in. Use this time to pick up any drinks or snacks you will need on the plane.






BOARDING

- ✈ Listen for the gate agent to announce pre-boarding. It is helpful to get on the plane first and have time to organize yourself before everyone else is trying to board.
- ✈ If you are able to split up, send one person ahead with the carry on baggage and car seat while the other parent stays with the kid. This way, the first parent can get everything organized and the kid gets a little bit more time to move freely. The second parent and the child can be among the last people to board.

TAKEOFF DELAYS

-  Ask the cabin crew whether you can let your kid walk and play on the jetway or in a plane a little.
-  Get your child involved in some positive play with the neighbors in front of and behind you (**Peekaboo is hard to resist even for the most stoic travellers**). They will be a lot more understanding when your children have a difficult time later if they've seen them being cute.
-  If you cannot move around a little try to engage your kid in quiet play.
-  Try not to let your child know if you are frustrated.

TAKEOFF

-  If you expect your child to sit in their own seat during takeoff, discuss your expectations before the final seatbelt warning. **The last thing you want is a tantrum right before takeoff.**
-  Babies and young children do not know how to clear their ears to reduce the pressure during takeoff and landing. Unless your child is asleep, you will need to help them. For older children, gum is a good aid, but you can also **give him something to drink during the ascent and descent.**
-  If your kid is tired, consider going through as much of your sleep routine as possible during takeoff (reading stories, singing quietly). If it works - lucky you! ;)

KEEP YOUR CHILD ENTERTAINED






Toddlers need to move, and they don't understand why they have to stay belted in on the plane. **Set expectations about what behavior you expect during the flight.** Explain him that you know it's really hard to sit still for so long, but you know they can do it and you will help them when it gets difficult.



The job of a toddler is to explore her world. If they can't explore by walking around, you can count on them driving the passenger in front of you crazy by exploring the tray table. **So you need to make your travel toys last.**



LANDING

-  Help your child with pressure in her ears during landing.
-  Wait until the other passengers have deplaned to gather your belongings and children.
-  If you've gate checked a stroller, it won't be available immediately anyway.



Last but not least, always bring your child's
favorite stuffed animal or comfort toy.

AND DO NOT LOSE IT!

Hold onto it as if it were your most prized
possession because, with the exception of
your child, it is. ;)



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On behalf of **Duckie Deck Airlines**
and the entire crew, I'd like to thank you
for joining us on this trip. We are looking
forward to seeing you on board again
in the near future.

Have a nice day!

