



TIPS FOR FLYING WITH A CHILD

1. Brief kids about the flight. Tell them to follow your and crew's instructions and to use "inside voices" on the plane.
2. Bring car seats for young ones. A child should be in them when the seat belt sign is on. They are safer than a baby in your lap.
3. Carry only what's needed for the flight: Diapers, wipes, a few toys, some snacks. If you let your kids wheel on little suitcases full of Cheerios and Legos, or toys that make noise, you deserve a middle seat forever.
4. If nursing, bring a shawl or blanket. Pumped breast milk and formula can be brought through TSA checkpoints.
5. Bring headsets, splitters for DVD players. Forcing all around you to listen to the umpteenth Barney video is guaranteed to get fellow fliers fuming.
6. Encourage kids to practice "please," "excuse me," and "thank you." You might offer a nickel or other reward for each unprompted, polite expression.
7. Do not allow a child to stand on a seat or kick seatbacks. If they persist, call a flight attendant, take kids' shoes off. Do something!
8. This is not the time to focus on that book you're dying to read. Or to nap, or get sloshed. It's not "me time" for parents.