

AIRPORT



Des Moines International Airport

Social Story





Today is the day! You are going to the airport to fly on a plane. Going on a trip is a fun way to see lots of new sights, sounds and experiences. A trip is a change in your usual routine. Here is a story to help you know what might happen when you go to the airport!



On the day of your trip, you may have to wake up at a different time than usual. Planes can fly in the morning, during the day and at night! You might still need to get dressed, brush your teeth and eat before heading to the airport. You will probably have a suitcase or bag packed with your clothes and some toys to take on the trip!

You can bring a sunflower lanyard to wear during the trip. This will help people know you may need extra time or space at the airport.



To get to the airport, you might drive in your car or get picked up by a taxi/Uber to take you to the airport. If you drive in your car, you will park in a parking garage, and you will need to walk to the building. If you take a taxi or Uber, they will drop you off at the front doors.



Inside the airport, you will see lots of people and hear lots of sounds, some from speakers giving announcements. When you first walk in, you might need to check your bags and get your tickets. Checking your bags means giving them to an airport employee who will make sure it's packed on the plane you'll be riding in.



After you get your tickets and check your bags, you and your family will head to security. You can take the stairs, elevator or escalator to get there! Sometimes there can be a line to wait in. It might be loud and crowded waiting in line. Once you get to the front of the line, the security guard will check your ticket before you move forward.



Next, you will walk through to more security. The workers will give everyone directions – so it's important to listen closely to the workers and your parents. You may have to take off your jacket, shoes, belt or headphones. The workers will use a special machine that can take a picture and check everyone's bags.

Please show your sunflower lanyard if you need extra help or time. Once you're done with security, you will get all your belongings back!



Once you are through security, you might have to wait for a while before getting on the plane. Your family might take a walk, fill up your water bottles or go to the bathroom. It's important to stay with your family so no one gets lost!



Once it's time to get on the plane, you will wait with your family until it is your turn to find your seats. When it's your turn, you will show the worker your ticket and then walk down a long hallway to the plane. Please show the worker your sunflower lanyard if you need any help or extra time to get to your seat.



Once you're on the plane, you will find your seat to sit down. To keep everyone safe, you will need to put your bag under the chair or in a space above your seat. The flight attendants will let you know when you can get your bag out again!



It can sometimes take a while for everyone to find their seat and get on the plane, but once everyone is seated, it's almost time to go!



The pilot and flight attendants will close the doors, and then they will give some directions so you can learn more about the plane! When all their directions are done, the pilot will get ready to start the plane so you can fly to your next destination!