FLYING OUT OF NASHVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT® (BNA®)

A SOCIAL STORY CREATED BY AUTISM TENNESSEE

Going to the Nashville International Airport is exciting! Airports are busy places where people go to fly on airplanes to visit new places or to go home.

This story will help me understand what to expect and how to feel comfortable when we travel from Nashville International Airport.



Before I Leave Home - Packing Your Bags

I will help to pack my bags. I will need my clothes, my toothbrush, and anything else I might need.

My family will help me decide what other things to bring depending on where we are going.





Going to the Airport



My family will plan how we get to the airport.

We might drive our car, take a taxi, use a rideshare service, or a friend might drive us there.

We need to get there early.

Arriving at the Airport



I will know that we are in the right place when I see signs that say BNA.

I might see airplanes taking off, landing, or parked.

I might also see cars, trucks, and shuttle buses on the roads around the airport.

Are we being dropped off at the airport?

Our driver will take us to the departure section of the airport.
I will exit the vehicle quickly. I will help gather our luggage and enter the airport.





Are we parking at the airport?

We can walk or take a shuttle bus from the parking lot to the airport.

We might have to wait for a few minutes in the parking lot for a shuttle bus.



Entering the Airport

The Nashville International Airport is a big building with many doors.

It is important that I stay close to my family at all times.

We will enter through one of the main doors and see many people and signs. I can use headphones it it gets too loud.



Finding Our Way

I will help my family look for signs that will help us find our way. This may include the signage for the airline.

If we are unsure of where to go, we can ask for help at the Information desk.

We can also ask for a Sunflower lanyard at the Information desk.



Checking In

The check-in counter is where we will check our luggage and can print boarding passes.

Checking means that the airport staff will load our bags onto the airplane.



Are we checking luggage or need to print a boarding pass?

If no, we can go straight to security.

If yes, we will use the kiosk to print luggage tags.



I can help attach tags to my luggage. These tags tell the airport workers where my luggage is going.



After my luggage is tagged, we will take it up to the check-in desk.

The attendant may ask me my name and weigh my luggage.

My luggage will be put on a conveyor belt to be loaded on the airplane.



Now we can go through security.

Security Check

Now we will get in the line for security. This is where the TSA Agents make sure that everyone is being safe.

Me and my family will stand in a line. It might look long, but it moves pretty quickly. While we wait, I can chat with my family or look around at the busy airport.



When it is our turn, the agent in the uniform will ask me my name. My family will show them my boarding pass.



The security area has lots of big machines that scan bags and people.



I will see some big plastic bins. I will put my all things in a bin to be scanned. This includes my bags, jacket, and anything in my pockets. My toys or electronic devices go in the bins, too. I might have to take off my belt or shoes.

I will get all of my things back after they have scanned by the TSA Agents.

Then, we will all take turns walking through a special doorway called a scanner. I might hear a beep, but that's okay! If it beeps, I might need to walk through again or stand still for a quick check.



After the scanner, I will go to the other side where the bins come out. I will help grab my bags, shoes, and anything else I put in the bins.

Finding Our Gate

Now it is time to find our gate. The gate is where we will get on the airplane.



There are many stores and restaurants along the way if I need something to eat or drink. There are many restrooms, too.





Waiting Area at the Gate

There will be seats where I can wait for the flight.

There are areas where I can charge my devices.

My family and I will listen for announcements about our flight.



I can read a book, use my device, eat a snack, or relax while we wait. I can wear my headphones if there is too much noise.







Getting Ready to Board the Plane

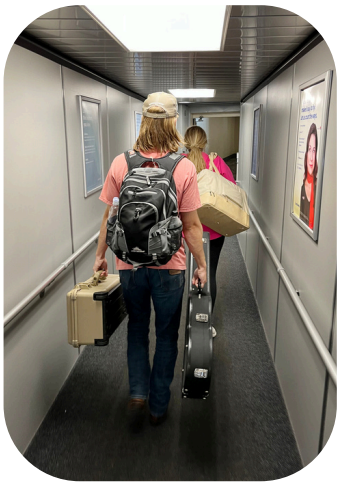
When our flight is ready, the airline attendants will make an announcement.

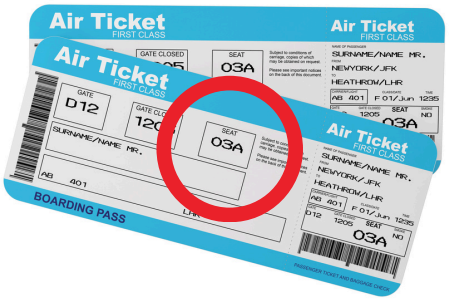
I will get in line with my family and wait for our turn to get on the airplane.



When it is our turn, the attendant will scan my boarding pass and tell me it's okay to walk through the doors to the jetbridge. I will wait for my family.

We might have assigned seats. If not, my family will tell me where to sit.





Getting Ready for Takeoff

If I have a carry on bag, my family will place it in the overhead bin or under the seat in front of me.

I will sit down and put on my seatbelt.

We will wait for everyone to get on the airplane.



Takeoff

The plane will move to the runway and take off.

The airplane engines will power up and be loud. It might feel a bit bumpy. This is normal.

I can use my headphones or earplugs if it gets too loud for me.



In the Air



I can read, watch a movie, or take a nap.

The flight attendants may offer me snacks and drinks.

My ears might feel pressure. Chewing gum and crunchy snacks can help this feel better.

I might feel turbulence. This is when the air around an airplane moves up, down, or sideways. The airplane may shake and bump. It can be uncomfortable. The airplane will be fine.

Landing



The airplane will slowly come back down and land.

I will stay in my seat until the plane stops completely.

Getting Off the Airplane



Everyone gets off the airplane starting with the people in front. This can be a slow process. I will need to be patient.

When it's my turn, I will help carry my things. I will follow my family to the front of the airplane.

I will walk back up the jetbridge and into the new airport.

Collecting Luggage

If we checked luggage, we will follow the signs to the baggage claim area to get our luggage.





Conclusion

Traveling through the Nashville International Airport can be a fun experience when I know what to expect. I will remember to stay with my family, follow the signs, listen to announcements, and ask us for help if I need it.

