



Kid-Friendly Travel

Considering the fact that all of us at Magic Mile Travel are mothers and obviously love to travel, we have come up with some tips for traveling with your children that have really helped us over the years.

- DVDs – We’ve found that watching DVDs with a portable DVD player can be a lifesaver. The trick is when you use it. Breaking out the DVD player an hour or so before naptime or bedtime can really help you out in getting the little ones to calm down and sit still. You might even get lucky by having them fall asleep to the movie.
- Books on CD – Go to your local book store or library before leaving on your trip and look for children’s books on CD. Most libraries have caught on to this growing trend and have begun offering a pretty wide variety of selections for kids.
- Music – Have a few choices of kid’s music CDs handy for the little ones. For older kids, make sure IPODs and mp3 players are fully charged and have fresh batteries readily available.
- Books – A variety of books are great to have on a trip, even for the wee ones. They love to look at board books, just make sure they’re small enough for your child to hold on his/her own. “I Spy” books and Highlights magazines have been wonderful for our older kids.
- Coloring – Don’t forget the color books and washable markers. We do not suggest bringing crayons (they can melt) or colored pencils. The washable markers are bigger, making it easier for kids to hold on to, and easier to find if they are dropped.
- Travel Games – We’ve noticed that those little travel versions of board games tend to be a mess, so we actually suggest more interactive games like, “I Spy With My Little Eye...,” “I’m going to (your destination) and I’m bringing,” License plate games, travel bingo ([click here](#) for more information on printable travel games), etc.
- Snacks – Always keep a variety of snacks on hand, but try to limit the sweets. Trail mix, fresh fruit, and yogurt tubes seem to work well. In addition, make sure you have healthy drinks available.
- Baby Wipes – Always carry baby wipes, even if yours are no longer in diapers, they can be used to clean up all types of messes.
- First-Aid – A mini first-aid kit is definitely a necessity! Available at your local drug store, it makes those little cuts and scrapes no big deal. If you already have the supplies at home, you can make your own, just throw bandages, tweezers, a thermometer, antibiotic ointment, and antiseptic towelettes into a small zippered sandwich bag and you’re good to go. (Take a look at [Adventure Medical Kits](#) online for more travel specific ideas.)
- Pull-along Bags – It’s great if each child can have their own small travel bag with wheels to store all of their music, books, DVDs, and snacks. We do not recommend carrying with any type of belongings that have your child’s name clearly visible from the outside.



Kid-Friendly Travel (Cont.)

- Spots & Stains – We have fallen in love with Tide to Go®! This little miracle stain remover is quick and handy for those “oops” moments.
- Quiet – Try to give your child calm and friendly reminders to use their “inside voice.” We’re not guaranteeing it will work, or even help, but it doesn’t hurt to try.

Other Ideas:

- Timing – If you’re a morning person, try traveling early in the morning while your child is still sleeping. A night person may want to travel at night, after the child has already gone to sleep.
- Sleep – Bring things that help make your child comfortable enough to go to sleep... their favorite stuffed animal, blanket and pillow may help.
- Stop – Be prepared to stop frequently, and not only for potty breaks. Kids will need to run around for a little while (parks work well for this), stretch, and don’t forget their bladders are smaller than ours.

Specific to Air Travel:

- Strollers & Car Seats – We recommend gate-checking these items so you don’t have to worry about not having them when needed, or having them get lost or broken in luggage.
- Gum – A must have! For kids old enough to chew gum, it can help make the ears “pop” during take off and landing. For younger ones, we suggest having them feed during this time for the same reason.
- Health Issues – As your travel agent, we can help curb problems you may encounter if we know about your child’s health issues ahead of time. All medications must be in their original bottles. It is also important to remember that all air travelers must follow the [3-1-1 rule](#).
- Meals – If meals are served on your flight, many airlines now offer kid-friendly meals. These meals need to be requested at the time of booking, and tend to include the typical kid favorites like a hamburger or hot dog. They may also provide stickers or a toy with the meal.
- Wings – Many airlines will give children a set of “wings” and may even have the pilot come talk to your child. For this extra perk, have a chat with your flight attendant about it.