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Traveling with ASD – Making Adventures Easier and More Enjoyable

Tips for Traveling with a Child on the Spectrum

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Books to Check Out

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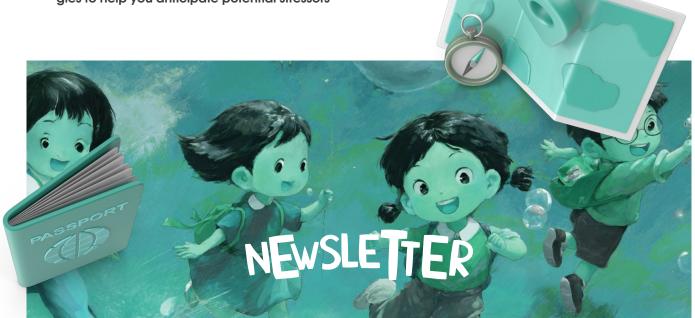
Dear Triumph ABA Parents,

Summer is here, and for many families, that means planning day trips, getaways, or visits with loved ones. While travel can be exciting, it often brings unique challenges for children on the autism spectrum. New environments, disrupted routines, and sensory overload can make what should be fun feel overwhelming—for both the child and the caregiver.

The good news? With thoughtful preparation, travel can become a positive and even growth-promoting experience. In this month's newsletter, we're sharing tips, tools, and strategies to help you anticipate potential stressors

and support your child before, during, and after travel. From building visual schedules to packing sensory tools and creating "safe spaces" on the go, we'll help you set the stage for smoother transitions and memorable moments.

Whether you're traveling across the country or just across town, the goal is the same: to make your child feel safe, understood, and empowered—wherever the road takes you.





Tips for Supporting Successful Play Dates

Preview the Trip: Use social stories, photos, or Google Maps to show your child where they're going and what to expect. This helps ease anxiety around the unknown.

Bring a Travel Schedule: Create a simple visual schedule outlining key steps in the trip (e.g., "Car → Airport → Plane → Hotel") to increase predictability.

Pack Sensory Supports: Noise-canceling headphones, fidget toys, weighted lap pads, or familiar snacks can help your child self-regulate during transitions or overstimulation.

Practice Transitions: If possible, do "mini trips" ahead of time—like visiting a train station or airport—to practice waiting, walking through security, or wearing a seatbelt.

Have a Comfort Plan: Identify and communicate your child's signs of distress early.

Know in advance how you'll help them take a break, reset, or return to calm.

Build in Recovery Time: Allow time after travel for your child to rest and reintegrate back into routine—this can make the whole experience feel more manageable.





TO CHECK OUT

Autism on the Go: A Travel Resource Guide for Families by Ellen Notbohm

The ASD and Me Picture Book: A Visual Guide to Traveling with ASD by Melanie Heyworth My Travel Journal (adaptable social story format – various publishers)

I Am Going on a Trip by Laurie Leventhal -Belfer Taking Autism on the Road by Pamela Compart

## Quote of the month:

## Preparation is the key to success.

- Alexander Graham Bell



No two trips will look the same—and that's okay. The most meaningful travel memories are created when we meet our children where they are and support them through each experience, big or small. With the right tools in place, travel can become less about "getting there" and more about growing together.