



# autism aviators

I AM FLYING TO

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A partnership between  
Autism Nova Scotia and Halifax  
Stanfield International Airport

**A Preparing Story**





I am going to take an airplane to \_\_\_\_\_



Before I go away to \_\_\_\_\_  
I will need to get ready for my trip by packing my suitcases.



First I will drive  
to the airport by

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The car may  
need to be  
parked in the  
parking lot.



After the car is parked I will walk from the parking lot to the entrance of the airport terminal.



I may even take an elevator from the parking lot to the inside of the terminal.





I may get dropped off at the Departure area at the airport. When I get to the airport front doors, I will go through the circular door or the side door.



When I get inside the airport terminal there are a number of things I must do before I get on the plane.

These are the rules of the airport and the law so I must follow these rules and laws. I will be okay because I will have \_\_\_\_\_ to help me follow the rules.

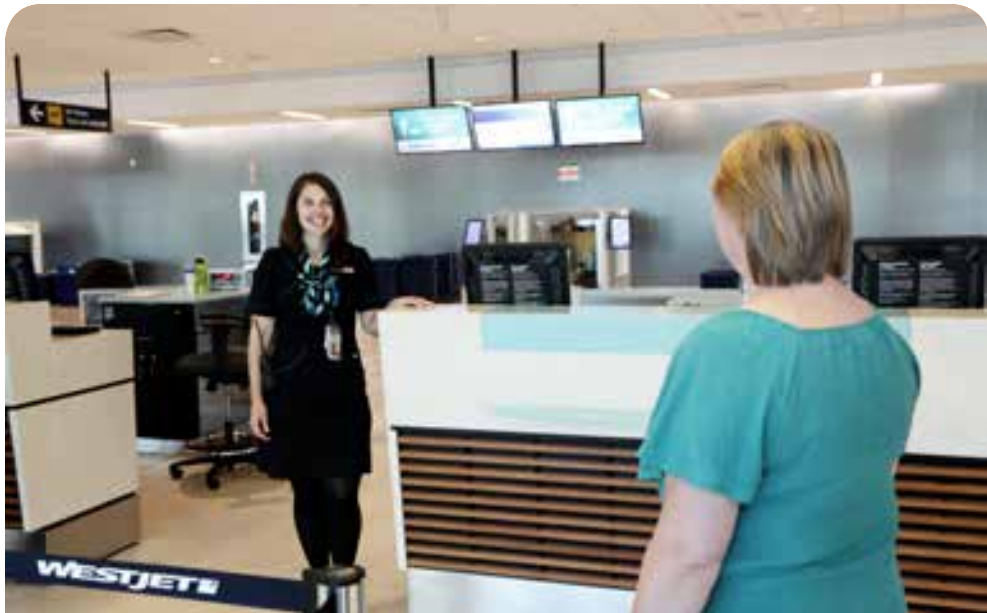
Here are the rules that I must follow:



When I get inside the airport I will need to check in. There may be a line up. That is okay. I can wait in the line until it is my turn.



Sometimes I can check in by using the check-in kiosk. I can get help from a check-in agent. This is the station where I will get my tickets to go on the plane and the tickets to put on my baggage so my bags will not get lost. I will need to follow the on-screen directions and answer the questions on the screen. I need to do this to get my baggage tickets and boarding passes.



Once I get my tickets and baggage claim I will go to the agent beside the desk.



The agent will go behind the desk to check my tickets on the computer. When I get there the agent will make sure I have all the tickets I need to get on the plane and to make sure my bags are ready to be put on the conveyor belt.





After the agent checks to make sure that I have all of the tickets I need, I will walk over to the baggage conveyor belt.



I will look at the pictures on the wall of the conveyor belt to show me how to lay down my bag.



I will put my large bag on the belt so the machine can take my bags to the plane. My cases will travel in the trunk of the plane and be there at the end of the plane ride.



After I watch the conveyor belt take my bags, I will look for a sign that will tell me the way to Departures like the sign in this picture. I will follow the sign to Departures. Before I get to the gate for my airplane I must go through the pre-board screening. This is the law. This helps keep everyone safe. There will be security officers at the pre-board screening to help me.



This is where I will line up to get to pre-board screening.



When I get to the pre-board screening area, I will see that there may be more than one line-up. One line-up is for people wearing the Autism Aviators Lanyard or who have a preferred ticket at the Halifax airport. I must show the security officer my boarding pass and identification before I go through to the security area. The officer checks my papers to make sure I have everything I need in order to go on the plane.



When I walk to the pre-board screening area I will see the search area. There may be a line-up and that is okay. The security officer will tell me, or signal with their hand, when to step on the mat that lights the green arrow. I will follow the green arrow to the pre-board screening line.



When I get to the front I must put my things like my purse, wallet, computer, shoes, belts, change and jewelry and any metal items that I may have on or with me, in a container to have them checked.





After I put my items in the container I give it to the officer. The officer will push the container through the X-Ray machine. The machine will x-ray my items to make sure they are safe to travel with.



My items will go through the screening machine to be X-Rayed. This is okay. My items will be safe. I will get my items back after they have gone through the screening machine.



I will walk over to the area where I will walk through the body scanner. I will wait until the officer tells me, or indicates with their hand when it is my turn to walk through the body scanner.



When the officer tells me it is okay, I will walk through the body scanner. The officer will meet me on the other side. If the light goes off I may need to have my clothing checked. This is okay. The officer will help me.



When I walk through the pre-screening machine and if the light goes off as I walk through, I may need to have my clothes checked by the officer. The officer will use a small hand held wand and they will pass it over my clothes. They may also swab my hands. This is okay. This will not hurt. These are the rules and help keep me safe.



After I go through my check I will walk to the end of the conveyor belt to get my items out of the container.



Sometimes people will go through a body scanner instead of having the officer check their clothes with the hand held wand. You may be asked to walk inside the body scanner to be scanned. This is like having an x-ray. You must stand still and you will be asked to raise your arms above your head. This does not hurt. After the body scanner is done, I will wait for the officer to tell me that I can walk over to get my items from the conveyor belt. If I do not want to go in the x-ray machine, I can ask to have a private physical search.



## Private search area

Available upon request for those undergoing a physical search as part of the screening process.

## Zone de fouille privée

Disponible sur demande aux personnes soumises à une fouille manuelle dans le cadre du processus de contrôle.



Sometimes the officer will need to do a physical search. This can be done in a private area, I just have to ask. It is okay for the officer to do a physical search of my body while keeping my clothes on.



Sometimes the officer will need to go through my items after they have gone through the x-ray machine. That is okay.



The officer will check my items in front of me. The officer will give me my items back after they have checked them. This keeps everyone safe. This is the law and I must follow all the rules before I can board the plane.



After I go through screening, I will go upstairs to my gate. I can walk up the steps, take the escalator or take the elevator to get to my gate.



When I get upstairs I will see signs that will tell us the direction to my gate. I will follow the sign to get to my gate. My gate number may be found on my Boarding Pass, or by looking at Departures on the large screens.



When I get to my gate number I will see a waiting area with chairs. I can sit in one of these chairs and use the items I brought in my carry-on bag while I wait to board the plane.





When it is time to board the plane, the ticket agent from behind the desk will announce that it is time to line up to get on the plane. When the agent announces that preferred ticket holders or people who need extra time can board, I can go in that line-up. I will show my identification and tickets to the agent before I get on the plane.



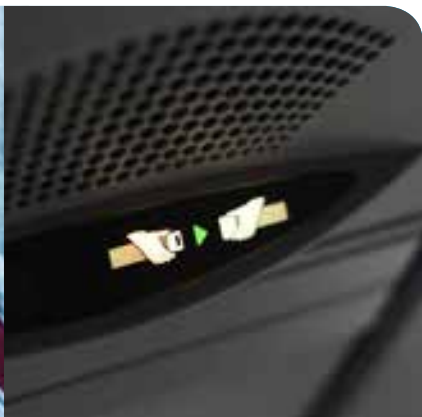
The agent will look at my identification and ticket and then tell me where I need to walk to get on the plane.



I will walk down a ramp and at the end of the ramp  
I will see the door to the plane.



When I enter the airplane there will be a flight attendant at the door of the airplane to greet me. The flight attendant will direct me to my seat.



I will sit in my seat and buckle my seat belt.  
If I need help I can ask \_\_\_\_\_  
to help me. I must wear my seat belt while I am  
sitting in my seat. This keeps me safe.





The pilot or flight attendants will make announcements when the plane is about to take off and land. They may also make announcements during the flight. I must listen to the announcements and follow their directions. This is a rule.



While the plane is flying I can use the items in my carry-on bag or eat a snack.



There are toilets on the airplane. These toilets are small and there will not be much space. If I need to use the washroom I can ask \_\_\_\_\_ for help. When I flush this toilet it will be very loud. It's okay to plug my ears if this noise bothers me.



When I have finished in the bathroom and washed my hands I must go back to sit in my seat.



When the plane lands, I will wait for the flight attendant to tell me when I can leave the plane. I will sit in my seat until \_\_\_\_\_ tells me it's okay to get up.



When I get off the plane I will follow the baggage signs to get my luggage.



To get my luggage I must exit the terminal through the automatic doors. The doors are operated by a sensor and will open as I approach. I must remember to keep walking and do not stop until I have exited the doorway.



When I get to the baggage carousel I will need to wait for my bags. This area can be very busy and some people may push to get their bag. It is okay to stand back and wait for my bag until some people have gone, my bag will keep going around until I can get to it.





After I get my bags I will look for the signs that will tell me the way to exit. I will walk towards the exit signs and leave the airport.

## Acknowledgements

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Autism Consultant and  
Autism Nova Scotia Board  
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Autistic adults and families  
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review process.

## About Autism Aviators

Autism Aviators was created by Autism Nova Scotia and Halifax Stanfield International Airport in response to families inquiring about preparing their loved one to take a flight. We learned that not all journeys are about special vacations, some are for planned or unplanned events, or out-of-province medical treatment. The reasons families reached out were varied, but the consistent element was the need to understand and be familiar with the air travel process to create a more predictable experience for people living on the Autism Spectrum. It is for this reason, Autism Nova Scotia and Halifax Stanfield International Airport came together in a partnership to create a series of resources that would support children, youth and adults in planning for air travel, including this preparing story.

## **About Autism Nova Scotia**

Founded in 2002, Autism Nova Scotia is a community-based, not-for-profit organization with nine locations across the province. Programs and services delivered by the organization support individuals on the Autism Spectrum, families, caregivers, researchers, professionals working in the field and the community at large. Autism Nova Scotia strives to build community capacity to enhance understanding, acceptance and inclusion of individuals living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder across Nova Scotia.

## **About Halifax Stanfield International Airport**

Halifax Stanfield is Atlantic Canada's principal full-service airport providing passengers and cargo clients with access to markets across Canada, the United States, the Caribbean Basin, Europe and Asia. It's the only airport in Atlantic Canada to offer Canada Customs services on a 24 hour, seven day a week basis, and U.S. preclearance. The airport, a major economic generator valued at over \$2.7 billion to the provincial economy, serves over 3.9 million passengers and processes more than 33,300 metric tonnes of cargo. A recognized innovator in the global airport industry, Halifax Stanfield is the first airport in North America to offer a self-service baggage drop system for all passengers and is consistently ranked among the best airports in the world.

## **About Halifax International Airport Authority**

Halifax International Airport Authority (HIAA) is a locally controlled, non-share capital corporation that manages and operates Halifax Stanfield International Airport. Its mission is creating prosperity for our region by connecting Atlantic Canada to the world through flight with a vision of great people creating the best airport community in the world.



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**If you need further help, please contact**

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