

June 2, 2015



Tips for Summer Traveling

As the schools begin to close and air gets warmer it can only mean one thing, summer is finally here. With most families your summer brings wonderful travels that whether it is a short trip to see a family member or a week long trip on cruise. Traveling with a child who has a disability is not always easy but it is not impossible. Here are some helpful tips when traveling on airplanes with your child.

Don't Be Afraid

The idea of going on a family vacation can be quite scary with medical issues or public behavioral outbursts. However, unless you have specific travel restrictions there is no reason not to get out this summer. Everyone deserves a vacation.

Prepare a head of time

Starting a month before your flight start explaining to your child how the process of going through the airport will be. Take him or her through these sets starting from when you arrive at the the airport. This will help your child feel more aware of whats happening and it will not be as new of an experience.

Ask about Autism Programs and other special needs programs

Airlines such as jet blue offer programs that offers a free rehearsal experience for your child and you. They will walk you through the normal screening process with TSA as well as getting on the plane with your child, getting buckled and staying seated through the flight. Programs offered has shown to be extremely effected for the children and there families.

Contact the airline a head of time

Many airlines when contacted a head of time are more then willing to give you a pre boarding pass for you and your family.

Food and Drinks

Even if your trip is only an hour long flight that can seem like forever to your child. Packing the right amount of snacks and drinks is key to a safe and happy flight. Ask the airline if they will be serving food and if you could purchase a meal even if it is not offered in your class. If they will not be serving any food be sure to buy some snacks and meal for your child upon arrival to the airport.

Destination Fun

When you arrive check out the different locations that offer assitance for children with special needs for example Walt Disney World offers a Services for Guests with Cognitive Disabilities. Through this program Disney offers advanced ticket purchase, stroller and wheelchair rental, strollers as wheelchairs, rider switch, easy access attractions, calm break areas, companion restrooms, attraction guides and dietary accommodations.

Have Fun

Have you ever heard of a perfect vacation where absolutely everything went as planned? No. You should always keep in mind a small amount of chaos is unavoidable and don't let it ruin your vacation. The goal of any vacation is always to see your family having fun together, the memories of family vacations will last a lifetime for everyone involved.

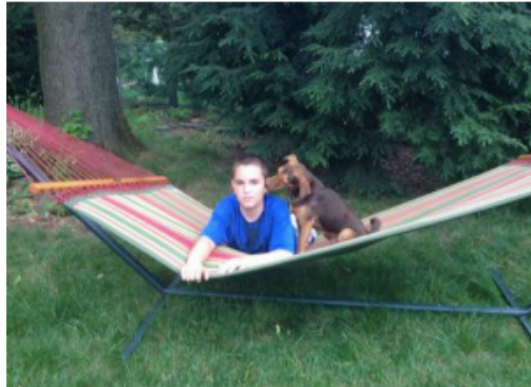
Save The Date

Save the date for Fund it Forwards first ever golf outing fundraiser. The purpose of this fundraiser is to raise money for future fund it forward families as well as current families struggling to receive the medical supplies they need to help their children go through there days as smoothly as possible. The fundraiser will be taking place on **Saturday August 8th, 2015**. If you are interested in sponsoring a hole for this event please contact Christiana Fragale at christiana@funditfwd.org.



Featured Child

Meet our featured child this month Christian. Christian was adopted at the age of 2 from Bulgaria in 2002. Christian received diagnosis of auditory processing and sensory dysfunction, verbal tics, OCD and finally in 2010, autism (PDD-NOS) as well as more recently convergence deficit and focusing dysfunction. Christian attends a main stream school with resource classes and is doing well since last year and has made honor roll.



Christian lives with his single mom Debra who struggles with bills and has been fighting cancer since 2010 and is still paying medical bills to this day. She receives no help from anyone and even just paying for the essentials such as heat and food is a struggle. She hopes her son will find one friend outside of school, but because of his lack of social skills and memory she is still waiting for that wish to come true. Through all the struggles Debra continues to have faith and prays for the simple things in life daily.

[Want to donate and help Christian ? Check out this link](#)

Fund It Forward | info@funditfwd.org | www.funditfwd.org

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