

# Travel MOM™

## Flying with Children

by Donnita Cagle Bassinger, CTC, MCC

### Planning your flight

Summer is here and many families are taking to the skies. Flying with children can be a fun family adventure or a nightmare depending upon how you plan your trip. There are many things you can do to improve your odds of having a positive experience. Planning a trip with your family is not the time to buy the very cheapest tickets with multiple connections on various airlines. It is important to plan ahead so you can get to where you are going with the fewest flights possible. Every time you change planes and especially when you change airlines, you increase your chance of delays, lost luggage and more hassles.

For those of us in the Willamette Valley, flying from Eugene Airport is a great choice. Parking, check-in and getting through

security is easier and faster compared to flying from Portland International Airport.

When planning your flights, you need to be aware of new security rules implemented by the Transportation Security Administration. Airlines are now required to collect the following data: full names as listed on your ID, date of birth and sex of each passenger.

### International travel

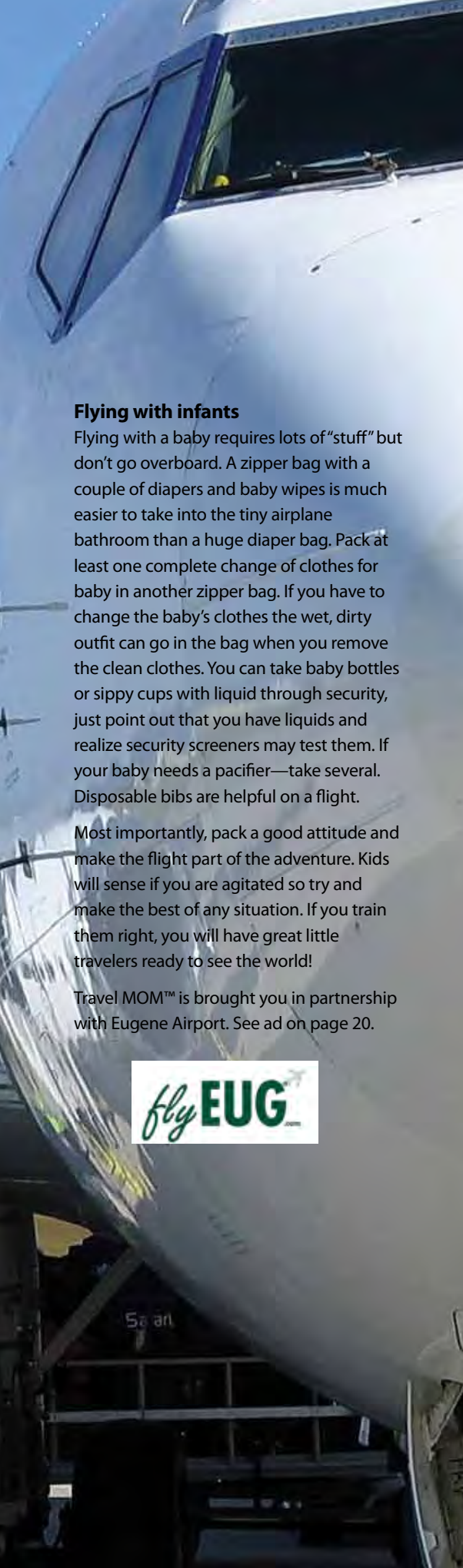
Passengers of all ages flying *anywhere* outside of the United States are required to have a valid passport (passport books not cards). Children under the age of 18 who are not traveling with both parents listed on their passports may need a notarized letter giving permission for travel. Some countries require that you apply for permission and pay a fee to enter their country—this is documented with a stamp placed in your

passport called a Visa. A travel agent can assist with all of these details.

### Packing

Once you have your tickets, you need to plan carefully for your flight. Most airlines now charge \$20-\$50 per checked-in bag each direction with a maximum weight of 50 lbs. per bag. These charges can add-up quickly for a family. It is important to consider what you will need on your trip and pack carefully to minimize these costs. Another way airlines have cut their costs and increased yours is by charging for food and beverages onboard flights. Every mom knows that hungry kids are a recipe for disaster. I never get on a plane without a bag full of snacks. Small bags of pretzels, raisins, crackers, nuts and cereal are essential to a good flight experience. To go with these snacks, be sure to bring packets of wet-wipes.





### Flying with infants

Flying with a baby requires lots of “stuff” but don’t go overboard. A zipper bag with a couple of diapers and baby wipes is much easier to take into the tiny airplane bathroom than a huge diaper bag. Pack at least one complete change of clothes for baby in another zipper bag. If you have to change the baby’s clothes the wet, dirty outfit can go in the bag when you remove the clean clothes. You can take baby bottles or sippy cups with liquid through security, just point out that you have liquids and realize security screeners may test them. If your baby needs a pacifier—take several. Disposable bibs are helpful on a flight.

Most importantly, pack a good attitude and make the flight part of the adventure. Kids will sense if you are agitated so try and make the best of any situation. If you train them right, you will have great little travelers ready to see the world!

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## 10 Essentials to Bring Onboard

- » Snacks (pretzels, crackers, cheese sticks, jerky, nuts, cereal)
- » Wet-wipes
- » Tissues
- » Small books and magazines
- » Stickers and notebooks
- » Change of clothes
- » New toys and prizes
- » Crayons, pencils and pens
- » Handheld games, music or video players (plus new DVDs and extra batteries)
- » Zipper bags to store the above items

### Fly EUG

Choose Eugene Airport when planning your trip. Eugene Airport has direct flights to Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, Denver, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and Phoenix.

### Meet Travel MOM

Donnita Cagle Bassinger has been a local travel agent for 25 years and a “Travel MOM” for nine years. She has taken her three children (Nate, nine; Luke, five; and Jake 11 months) on numerous vacations. Her favorite family destinations include Disneyland, Hawaii, San Diego, Cruises and all-inclusive resorts. Contact Travel MOM™ Donnita today to plan your next family vacation. Call 541-688-7473, or visit [www.VacationMOM.net](http://www.VacationMOM.net). See ad on page 9.

