Ava Meets Leo

A gentle read-along adventure



A friendship story about communicating in different ways, waiting, and listening.

Ava Travels Kids | avatravelskids.com

A new hello

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Ava and Mom waited at their gate. A boy sat nearby with his dad. He had a tablet on his lap. Ava gave him a little wave.

Leo says hello

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The boy tapped his tablet. A voice said, “Hello. I am Leo.” “Hi, Leo! I’m Ava,” Ava said. She showed him Wings.

Time to listen

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“Do you like planes?” Ava asked. Leo looked at his tablet. Ava waited. Tap, tap. “Yes!” said the tablet. Ava smiled. “Me too!”

Lots to share

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Leo used his tablet to tell Ava things. He could ask questions, say no, and share what he liked. Ava listened to his words. She did not touch his tablet.

Can I sit here?

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“Can I sit beside you?” Ava asked. She waited for Leo’s answer. He tapped “Yes.” Mom stayed beside Ava. Leo’s dad stayed close too.

A quieter place

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An airport announcement was loud. Leo tapped “Quiet break.” His dad said, “Let’s find a quieter seat.” Ava asked Mom for a break too.

Our own choices

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Their grown-ups found a quieter spot near the gate. Leo kept his tablet with him. Ava put on her headphones. Each friend chose what helped.

Look, a plane!

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Leo pointed out the window. He tapped the airplane picture on his tablet. “Airplane!” it said. “I see it!” Ava said. They watched together.

A friend who listens

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Soon, it was time to go. Leo used his tablet to say “Goodbye.” Ava waved. “Bye, Leo!” Friends can talk in different ways. We can make time to listen.

We can make time to listen.

For grown-ups

Read, pause, listen, and choose together

Leo is an autistic, nonspeaking child who uses an AAC tablet. Not speaking does not mean having nothing to say. Keep a child’s familiar AAC system available, allow time, and respond to their messages without requiring speech or eye contact.

Explore the matching activity pack together. These stories and activities are for preparation and connection. Every child and trip is different.