Ava and Mateo’s First Flight

A gentle read-along adventure



A gentle story about a first flight, English and Spanish words, and choosing what helps.

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A family adventure

Ava and Mateo’s First Flight



Ava was traveling with Mom and Dad. At the gate, they met a boy and his mom. “Hola,” he said. “Hello! My name is Mateo.” “I’m Ava,” she said.

Two ways to say hello

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Mateo spoke English and Spanish. “Hola means hello,” he told Ava. “Hola, Mateo!” Ava said. The families smiled and stayed together near their gate.

A first flight

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“This is my first plane ride,” Mateo said. “My tummy feels funny.” His mom held his hand. “You can feel nervous,” she said. “I will stay with you.”

Would you like to see?

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“Pictures help me know what comes next,” Ava said. “Would you like to see my plan?” Mateo nodded. Ava opened it. Mom and Dad helped her show the steps.

One step at a time

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“We wait at our gate. Then we get on the plane. We find our seat and buckle our belt,” Ava said. Mateo pointed to each picture. His mom checked the steps for their trip.

Choose what helps

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“I like to hold Wings,” Ava said. “I can ask questions too.” Dad asked Mateo, “What would help you?” “Sitting with Mom,” Mateo said. “And looking at the pictures.”

A little pause

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Mateo sat with his mom. Ava sat with Mom and Dad. “Ayuda means help,” Mateo said. “I can ask for help.” They had time for a quiet pause before boarding.

Ready for our seats

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On the plane, each family found its own seats. Mateo sat with his mom. Ava sat with Mom, and Dad sat nearby. They buckled their belts and listened to the crew.

My own plan

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Mateo’s mom showed him their picture plan. “We found our seats,” he said. “I still feel a little nervous.” “I’m here,” she said. He held her hand and looked at the next picture.

A kind thank-you

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“Gracias means thank you,” Mateo told Ava. “Thank you for showing me your plan.” “You’re welcome!” Ava said. Mateo had his mom, his pictures, and a new friend. He could take one step at a time.

I can ask. I can choose. I can take one step at a time.

For grown-ups

Read, pause, listen, and choose together

Mateo is a Hispanic child who speaks English and Spanish. A few shared words welcome him without suggesting that all Hispanic families speak the same languages. Let children choose supports; feeling nervous does not need to disappear before they can travel.

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