Ava and the Connecting Flight

A gentle read-along adventure



Ava and Mei’s family find their next gate, share a picture plan, and make time for a break.

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Another airplane?

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Ava stepped off the plane with Mom and Dad. “Are we there?” she asked. “We have one more flight,” Mom said. “We will find our next gate together.”

Meet Mei

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A girl stood nearby with her mom and dad. “I’m Mei,” she said. “We have another flight too!” “I’m Ava,” Ava said. Both families were changing planes.

What is a connection?

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“Why do we need another plane?” Mei asked. Her dad said, “Our first plane brought us here. Our next plane takes us to the place we are going.” Ava looked at her picture plan.

Our next gate

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The grown-ups checked their flight details on the airport screen. “Our next gates are this way,” Dad said. Each family checked its own gate. They could walk together for a little while.

Mei spots a sign

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“Look!” Mei said. She pointed to a sign with an airplane and an arrow. “That shows a way to the gates,” Mom said. The girls stayed beside their own parents.

Ava shares her pictures

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“My pictures show what comes next,” Ava told Mei. “Get off the first plane. Find the next gate. Wait. Get on the next plane.” Mei followed the pictures with her finger.

Time for a stop

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“I need the bathroom,” Mei said. Her mom checked their boarding time. “We have time,” she said. Ava asked Dad for a quiet break. The grown-ups helped each child.

A little rest

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After their stops, the families sat near the gates. Ava held Wings and put on her headphones. Mei watched the planes with her mom and dad. They could rest while they waited.

Our own next steps

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Soon, Mei’s family needed to go to their gate. “Thank you for the pictures,” Mei said. “Thank you for finding the sign!” Ava replied. The girls waved goodbye.

Ready for the next flight

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Mom checked Ava’s next step. Dad stayed close. When their flight was called, Ava’s family followed the crew’s directions. Another plane, another step. Ava knew she could ask for help.

I can check my plan. I can ask. I can take one step at a time.

For grown-ups

Check your own route and boarding time.

Connections can involve a different gate, terminal, or security check. Grown-ups should confirm the route and boarding time for their own trip before choosing stops. Ask airport staff for help when needed. Mei’s family is an Asian family; their travel needs and choices are their own.

Read and pause together. Each family can choose the supports that fit their child and their trip.