

## Suggestions from Parents Who Travel with Family Members Who Have Autism:

- Bring a bag with items that will help keep your child's attention and possibly provide some stress relief. Good options include Rubik's Cubes, stress balls, stretch cloth, Silly Putty and other similar toys. (Tip: Grab a complimentary toy from the Traveler's Aid desk.)
- Have the child wear the fewest layers of clothing necessary to get past TSA screening to decrease the chances of an additional pat-down or touching, and to show TSA that the child does not have liquids or other contraband. Once beyond screening, dress the child more appropriately for the trip.
- Avoid window seats if your child is sensitive to sounds, as they tend to be noisier.
- To minimize any unnecessary stress, consider talking to the airline attendant about boarding last and saving the front seats for you. (We can't promise what they will say, but they are quite accommodating to their passengers.)

**For a full list of suggestions, please refer to ONT's "Pointers for Families with Autism Preparing to Travel by Air" brochure that can be found at [flyOntario.com/self-identification-program](https://flyOntario.com/self-identification-program).**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Ontario International Airport does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Alternative formats of this document in large print, braille, audio, and other formats, are available upon request.

## ONT's Autism Self-Identification Program

its in partnership with members of the Ontario International Airport community and the LeRoy Haynes Educational Center. In addition, we work in cooperation with our airline partners.

See [flyOntario.com/self-identification-program](https://flyOntario.com/self-identification-program) for a list of participating airlines.

## About LeRoy Haynes Bliss Academy:

LeRoy Haynes Bliss Academy specializes in services and treatments for all children on the autism spectrum and accepts appropriately placed students as young as age five up to age 22.

Haynes' Bliss Academy School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities has partnered with ONT to address the needs of families with autism when traveling by air, and to create public awareness about autism and possible behavioral issues that might arise at the airport or on a flight.

## Resources:



More information on all Disability Services at ONT can be found at [flyOntario.com/ada](https://flyOntario.com/ada)



To learn more about TSA Cares, watch their video about screening travelers on the autism spectrum: [qr.flyOntario.com/tsa-screening](https://qr.flyOntario.com/tsa-screening)

# ONT's Voluntary Self-Identification Program for Travelers with Autism



The Official ONT Autism mark here was created by **Erick Olea** of the LeRoy Haynes Educational Center and chosen as the winner of a design contest in 2023.



## What is ONT's Self-Identification Program?

The **Ontario International Airport (ONT) Self-Identification Program for Travelers with Autism** is the result of input received from parents of children with autism. This program came about because families with autism expressed a desire to have a way to identify loved ones with autism who might experience a breakdown at the airport.

Airport employees and police responders will be able to identify that an individual has autism and will be better prepared to mitigate or deescalate any issues. This program is completely free, completely voluntary, and a convenient way to let others at the airport know that you and your loved ones might need some additional time or help.

## Do People Need to Self-Identify?

**Not at all.** The program is entirely voluntary. It is up to the individual or family of a person with autism to determine for themselves whether to self-identify. This program was created because families with autism wanted people around them in the airport to understand that the behavior they may see or come upon, is not the result of deviance. ONT's goal is always to help provide an easy, stress-free experience at the airport, and this program will help provide that for families with autism.

## How Do I Use the Self-Identification Stickers Once I Get Them?

Each person requesting Autism Self-Identification Stickers receives two stickers, which are to be worn on the **front left shoulder** and the **back right shoulder**. Wearing the Autism Self-Identification Stickers identify an individual as having autism.

## Where Can I Get Self-Identification Stickers?

There are a few ways to pick up Self-Identification Stickers:

- Visit the Travelers Aid desk located on the first floor in either Terminal 2 or 4.
- Speak to an O.A.C.E.S. (Ontario Airport Customer Experience Specialists) team member – they're in the blue ONT shirts roaming the terminals!
- Contact your airline representative at check-in when you arrive at the airport.



For more information, you can visit [flyOntario.com/Self-Identification-Program](https://flyOntario.com/Self-Identification-Program).

## How Much Does This Cost?

This program is completely **free** – it is sponsored by ONT with the goal of making travel easier for everyone.

## Can I Use the Self-Identification Sticker at Other Airports?

This is a **ONT-specific program**, so the stickers won't be recognized anywhere else. We recommend contacting your airline or the airports you'll be visiting to see what programs they have available.



For an additional self-identification program that's recognized at ONT and at a growing number of airports (including many of our nonstop destinations), consider the **Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program**.

## ONT Tips For Families:

- Pre-arrange a special TSA screening five days before your flight by calling **TSA Cares** at 1-855-787-2227 or by filling out their online form: [tsa.gov/contact-center/form/cares](https://tsa.gov/contact-center/form/cares)
- Inform the airline agent at the check-in counter that you are traveling with someone with autism. They will make a note on your reservation and will be better able to assist you if it becomes necessary.
- Notify the flight crew when you board the aircraft.
- Use the **self-identification stickers** to help other passengers understand your situation. This might help them to be more accommodating, supporting both you and your loved one.