

## HOW WILL YOU TRAVEL?

# TAXI, UBER, LYFT



*New York City Taxi*

### Taxi:

- You can expect a taxi to be the same general design as a family car. You can prepare your child with pictures to help explain that the taxi you will be traveling in will look like this:

### Uber/Lyft:

- The kinds of vehicles used by Uber or Lyft vary in size and style. Some are like cars and others are like large SUVs.
- This may be more difficult to prepare your child for, but you can show them pictures of various models of passenger vehicles. You can explain to your child that it is similar to riding in a family car, if that is something they've done before.
- You can show them the logo that should be posted somewhere on the car.

### DURING YOUR TRIP

- Once the Uber/Lyft has been called for, an image should appear on your phone that shows what the car will look like. You can use this image to show the child and have them help you look for your ride as you wait.
- Optional: Provide your driver with an

information card about your child. If certain behaviors are typical/could occur during the ride, providing the driver with this information beforehand may make the reactions to the behaviors easier. Often, people do not know how to react to certain behaviors and they are surprised. So this card will give options to the driver and let them know what kinds of behaviors may possibly happen. That way they may be prepared to respond in an appropriate way.

### UH OH!

#### Using Uber Pool?

- If ride sharing with Uber Pool, still prepare as discussed above. The only difference with Uber Pool is that you will be with other passengers. If helpful, you can provide each passenger with an information card as we discussed before. To help prepare your child, talk with them about the possibility of other strangers being in the car with you. If your child struggles in the presences of strangers, maybe try to avoid using Uber Pool and just use the regular kind of Uber.



*A Lyft car with identifying sticker in window.*



*A person using a cell phone to call a taxi.*

- What if the driver is not friendly/accommodating?

- Just work with what you're given! You're doing a great job. Don't let the driver's bad attitude spoil your trip.

### CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Before you go, read your child the social story below to introduce them to the idea of driving in somebody else's car
- ✓ Show your child pictures of the way you'll be traveling (taxi picture, Uber/Lyft vehicle pictures/logos)
- ✓ Keep a lookout for your ride, and include your child in this lookout activity if they are able. That makes waiting more fun or less boring.
- ✓ Provide the driver with an informational card if you feel that would make for a smoother ride. 27-155.

This article focuses specifically on the perspectives of family caregivers of those with intellectual disabilities, and the influence vacation behavior has on their quality of life. Some key factors that were considered in this study were social connections with friends and family, and perceived freedom and independence. Additionally, financial resources, quality respite, and health and impairment concerns were also studied. They discovered many complex features of family vacations for those with a child with intellectual disabilities, and specifically how typical and atypical costs versus benefits of vacations are intensified because of this.

Sedgley, D., Pritchard, A., Morgan, N., & Hanna, P. (2017). Tourism and autism: Journeys of mixed emotions. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 66, 14-25.

This article is relevant to our travel guide as it specifically focuses on the emotional and everyday challenges of caring for a child with autism spectrum disorder while on vacation. This section discusses the benefits of vacations and has strategies adopted by mothers to manage their child's experiences during this time. The paper provides great ideas to families of children with autism spectrum disorder, and creates a sense of community, reminding families that others have gone through this as well.



*An Uber Pickup Zone sign in a mall.*