

Emirates expands Travel Rehearsal program to support neurodiverse passengers worldwide



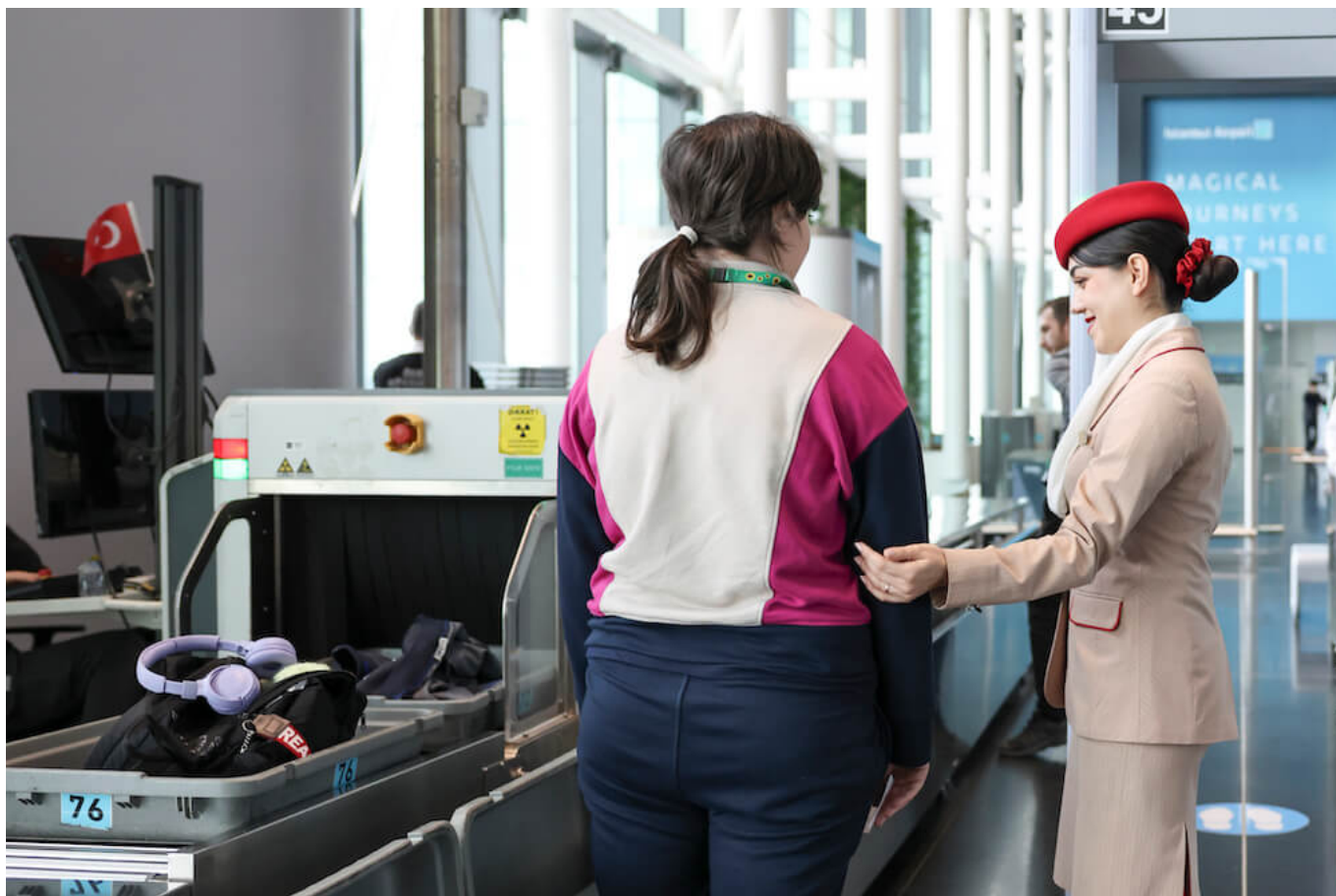
Child at Accessible Travel Support Check In counter gets his Boarding Pass

[Emirates](#) is expanding its accessibility efforts with the rollout of its Travel Rehearsal program across more than 40 cities worldwide, supporting children and young adults with autism as they prepare for air travel.

The program, developed by the Emirates Office of Accessibility & Inclusion, allows participants to experience a simulated airport journey, helping reduce anxiety and build confidence ahead of real flights. Since April 2025, more than 250 families have taken part in the initiative across six continents.

Travel Rehearsals guide participants through each stage of the airport experience, including check-in, baggage drop, security and boarding procedures. In some locations, participants also have the opportunity to board an aircraft, offering a full end-to-end preview of the journey.

Emirates has trained more than 35,000 staff to support passengers with autism, ensuring consistent assistance throughout the travel experience. The airline works closely with airport authorities, security teams and local autism organizations to deliver each rehearsal in a supportive environment.



Child at Emirates Travel Rehearsal practices going through Security

“The Emirates Travel Rehearsal program has been a resounding success across six continents, with impressive collaboration and drive shown by all stakeholders,” said Sami Aqil Abdullah, Senior Vice President, Emirates Airport Services Outstation & Business Support, in a statement released on April 20.

Emirates says the program addresses a key barrier to travel, noting that many neurodiverse individuals experience difficulty navigating the unpredictable and sensory-rich airport environment. Research cited by the airline indicates that 78 percent of families are hesitant to travel due to these challenges.

The airline will continue to expand the initiative throughout 2026, inviting more schools and community organizations to participate. In addition to the rehearsal program, Emirates offers onboard sensory products and an Accessible & Inclusive Travel Hub, designed to provide information and support at every stage of the journey.