

Airline seating: How to keep your family together on flights

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• **Talk to a gate agent:** The first real opportunity to find a seat together comes at the gate. Gate agents have a lot of flexibility in moving seats around. This time, money isn't their primary motivator — it's getting everyone in a seat in time for departure. "There have been multiple times where we've told the gate agent that we don't have seats together but would like to, and they've been able to make it happen," says Nina Thomas, a frequent traveler and author of the book "How to be Your Own Travel Agent."