



I'M GOING ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE COLUMBUS
ZOO AND AQUARIUM!

SOCIAL STORY



ONCE THE SCHOOL BUS ARRIVES AT THE ZOO, THE BUS DRIVER WILL PARK AND I WILL LISTEN FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY TEACHER AND CHAPERONES. I WILL HAVE TO WAIT PATIENTLY ON THE BUS WHILE MY TEACHER CHECKS-IN OUR GROUP WITH THE ZOO.





WHEN WE ARE ALLOWED TO GET OFF THE BUS, I WILL FOLLOW MY CLASSMATES TO THE FRONT OF THE ZOO. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT IN A LINE WHILE OUR TEACHER PAYS FOR OUR VISIT. THIS IS GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME AND I WILL HAVE TO BE PATIENT.





SOMETIMES THE FRONT ENTRANCE MAY HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL OUT BY THE TICKET BOOTH. THESE EXPERIENCES MAY MOVE OR MAKE SOUND WHILE I AM WAITING TO GO INTO THE ZOO. IF I NEED TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE EXHIBIT, I WILL ASK AN ADULT. IT CAN ALSO GET LOUD WAITING TO ENTER THE ZOO. I WILL TALK TO AN ADULT IF I FEEL TOO OVERWHELMED.





WHILE WAITING OUTSIDE THE ZOO ENTRANCE FOR MY
TEACHER, I WILL HAVE TO WAIT PATIENTLY IN LINE.
SOMETIMES IT IS VERY BUSY AND CAN TAKE 20-30 MINUTES
TO GET INTO THE ZOO. WHEN WAITING ON THE PLAZA,
THERE ARE RESTROOMS AVAILABLE. IF I NEED TO USE THE
RESTROOM, I WILL TALK TO AN ADULT.





WHEN WE ARE READY TO GO INTO THE ZOO, A ZOO STAFF MEMBER WILL LEAD MY LINE INTO THE ZOO THROUGH THE EXIT GATE. I WILL NEED TO STAY WITH MY CLASS.





WHEN INSIDE THE ZOO, I WILL NEED TO STAY WITH MY SCHOOL GROUP AND LISTEN TO MY TEACHER FOR INSTRUCTIONS. THE ZOO IS BIG AND I WANT TO SEE THE ANIMALS, BUT I MAY HAVE TO BE PATIENT.





I WILL STAY WITH MY SCHOOL GROUP WHEN VISITING THE ZOO. THE ZOO CAN GET VERY BUSY. IF I CANNOT FIND MY SCHOOL GROUP, I WILL FIND A ZOO STAFF MEMBER/VOLUNTEER DRESSED IN A BLUE, BLACK, RED, OR GREEN SHIRT WITH THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM LOGO AND BADGE. THEY CAN HELP ME.





WHILE EXPLORING THE ZOO, I WILL BE MORE LIKELY
TO SEE ANIMALS IF I OBSERVE QUIETLY. I MAY HAVE TO
WAIT MY TURN TO SEE AN ANIMAL IF IT IS BUSY.





IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE ZOO, IT MAY BE VERY LOUD.
I MAY NEED TO USE MY HANDS OR HEADPHONES TO COVER
MY EARS. IN OTHER AREAS, THERE CAN BE A VERY STRONG
SMELL. I MAY NEED TO LEAVE THE AREA OR PLUG MY NOSE.
I WILL TELL AN ADULT HOW I AM FEELING, AND WE CAN FIND
AN AREA THAT MAKES ME FEEL MORE CALM.





THERE ARE MANY RESTROOMS THROUGHOUT THE ZOO.
IF I NEED TO USE THE RESTROOM, I WILL TELL AN ADULT AND
WE WILL FIND THE NEAREST ONE. THE AUTOMATIC HAND DRYERS
AND THE TOILETS FLUSHING CAN BE LOUD. I MAY NEED TO COVER
MY EARS OR USE MY HEADPHONES. THERE ARE ALSO FAMILY
RESTROOMS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ZOO.





IF I GET TIRED, I CAN FIND ONE OF
MANY BENCHES AROUND THE ZOO AND SIT
AND HAVE A BREAK WITH MY GROUP.





IF I FEEL I NEED A QUIET BREAK FROM THE BUSY ZOO, I WILL TELL AN ADULT AND WE WILL LOOK AT THE ZOO'S SENSORY MAPS TO FIND AN AREA. WE CAN ALSO ASK A ZOO STAFF MEMBER OR A VOLUNTEER FOR A PLACE TO GO.





ONCE MY SCHOOL GROUP HAS DECIDED IT IS TIME TO LEAVE,
WE WILL WALK TOWARDS THE EXIT AND WALK BACK
TO OUR BUS TOGETHER. I MAY WANT TO HOLD A HAND
AGAIN WHILE IN THE PARKING LOT. HOPEFULLY I CAN
VISIT THE ZOO AGAIN SOON!





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