

# SENSORY GUIDE



### SENSORY LEGEND:

-  QUIET AREA
-  LOUD AREA
-  SPACE TO MOVE
-  TOUCH DISCOVERY
-  COOL DOWN AREA
-  STINKY AREA

S. RANDOLPH WAY

## EXPEDITION TANZANIA



AFRICAN ELEPHANT



Exit ▶  
Entrance ▶

LAKE SHORE LANE



# PREPARE FOR AN ADVENTURE

The greatest explorers study their route before a big adventure. Here is a guide to help you navigate Reid Park Zoo and have a wild time!



## ENTERING THE ZOO

I wait in line to get tickets before entering the zoo. I can ask for a map at the front entrance, or ask other questions too. I can ask if there is a sensory bag available if I need extra fidgets or sensory tools. Once inside, I can see what is happening at the zoo on the daily Event Boards.

## GIRAFFE ENCOUNTERS

During certain times of the day, the giraffe can be fed by zoo visitors. If I am going to feed the giraffe, there are certain rules I will have to follow. Sometimes I will need to wait in a line for my turn to feed the giraffe. That's ok, a lot of people like to see the giraffes up close, and I will get my own turn too! Giraffes are shy animals who do not like to be pet, so I will not try to touch them. Once it is my turn, I will use hand sanitizer to keep the giraffe's food clean. I will keep the food pieces whole, and hold them in my palm for the giraffe to take. Giraffes have sticky tongues which might make my hand sticky too! I can use hand sanitizer or wash my hands at a bathroom after feeding the giraffes. Once a giraffe takes all of their food from me, my turn is over, and someone else gets to feed them.



# ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Animal Encounters are when a zoo staff member presents a small animal in hand or a display case. I will listen quietly, while the presenter tells me and other guests all about the animal. If I have a question, I can raise my hand before asking. I might be able to touch the animal, but if not, that is ok! If I am able to touch the animal, I will approach it slowly and quietly so it stays calm. The zoo staff will help me touch the animal with one or two fingers so the animal and I both stay safe. After I touch the animal, I use hand sanitizer to clean my hands.



# AT THE LEARNING CENTER

The Conservation Learning Center has a lot of fun things to explore! There might be staff or volunteers presenting small animals inside too. The Learning Center is a great spot to cool down in or rest if I need a break. Outside the Learning Center is a grassy circle that I can play in! There may be lots of other people playing. I can ask if they want to play together, or take turns using the space.

# KEEPER CHATS

Keeper chats happen daily, and I can see where and when they will be on the day's Event Board or ask a staff member. A zookeeper will come talk to zoo guests about an animal they take care of. I can ask the zookeeper questions about the animals they take care of. If there are a lot of people, the zookeeper may not be able to answer all of the questions. It's ok if they need to leave to take care of the animals. I can try to ask any staff member my questions too!





## **VISITING THE AVIARIES**

I can see a lot of different birds at the zoo's aviaries. The birds can fly freely in the aviaries and so there are special rules to keep them safe if I go in. There are two doors to pass through. I will wait for the first door to close, before opening the second one, so birds do not fly out! There are bird ID guides I can use to see what types of birds there are. I will walk on the paths. Birds may come close to me, but they will not hurt me. Even if a bird comes close, I will not reach out to touch them. If I don't like the aviaries, I can leave through the double doors.

## **CAROUSEL RIDE**

The carousel is fun to ride on, but can play loud music and has a loud bell. If I go on the carousel, there are lots of animals to choose from! If someone else is on the animal I want to ride, I can pick another animal. Before the ride starts, I will put on my seatbelt. While the ride is spinning, I will keep my hands on the pole handle. Some animals move up and down too. I will stay in my seat until the ride stops. After my ride, I will walk to the exit, and leave the carousel.



## **TRAIN RIDE**

The train is fun to ride on! The train ride goes around the pond and fountain in the park. Sometimes, the conductor may ring a bell! If I ride the train, I will stay seated for the whole ride. I can wave to people outside the window! Once the train stops, I will exit the train so others can ride!

## FINDING HELP

If I need help, I can ask staff or volunteers at the zoo. I can ask them questions too! Staff at the zoo wear a shirt or jacket that says “Reid Park Zoo Staff”. Volunteers at the zoo wear a red or grey shirt that says “Reid Park Zoo Volunteer” or “Docent”.



## SEEING THE ANIMALS

Being patient can be hard, but I will wait politely to view the animals. I remember that other people are trying to see the animals too. Fences and guardrails are in place to keep animals and people safe, so I will stay on paths to look at the animals. The peacocks are special animals who can walk anywhere in the zoo! If I see peacocks on the sidewalk, I will give them space and not try to touch them. It is okay if I don't see every animal at the zoo. Animals like to have choices just like I do, so if I do not get to see an animal, I remember it is their choice!

## NEEDING A BREAK

The zoo is fun, but can be overwhelming. If I need a break in a quiet space or time to move my body, I will tell the people I am with. I can use the sensory map to find a good spot for me, or ask an adult. It is ok to take breaks. Animals take breaks too!

## GOING HOME

When we are done at the zoo, I get ready to go home. Coming to the zoo helps save animals in the wild! I can come to the zoo another time to see the animals again. I return sensory bags to the front gate before leaving.

