

SENSORY GUIDE



SENSORY LEGEND:

QUIET AREA



TOUCH DISCOVERY



LOUD AREA



COOL DOWN AREA



SPACE TO MOVE



STINKY AREA

EXPEDITION TANZANIA

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

BROWN BEAR

PEAFOWL
The peafowl roam the Zoo but please do not feed or touch them.

FROGS, LIZARDS, & MORE!

LEE H. BROWN FAMILY CONSERVATION LEARNING CENTER

WORLD OF PLAY

FLIGHT CONNECTION AVIARY

POLLINATOR GARDEN

LION-TAILED MACAQUE

GIRAFFE ENCOUNTER

GIRAFFE

CROWNED CRANE

SPEKE'S GAZELLE

WHITE RHINOCEROS

OSTRICH

ZEBRA

GOATS

MEERKAT

EVENT GARDEN

LION

JAGUAR

SQUIRREL MONKEY

SOUTH AMERICAN AVIARY

RHEA

TORTOISE

CAPYBARA

SWAN

PRESENTA AREA

SLOTH

FLAMINGO

AFRICAN WILD DOG

ANDEAN BEAR

ANTEATER

PACU

ALLIGATOR

TORTOISE

RUFFED LEMUR

WILDLIFE CAROUSEL

FLAMINGO GRILL

GIFT SHOP

Exit ▶
Entrance ▶▼ **Parking**

LAKE SHORE LANE

S. RANDOLPH WAY

FUTURE SITE OF
Pathway to Asia



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. There may also be activities I can join or things that I can play with! There may be lots of other people playing. I can ask if they want to play together, or take turns using the space.

WORLD OF PLAY

World of Play is a playground with many fun things to do! I need to take turns on the playground. I wait for others to be finished with the equipment that I want to use. I make sure to let others have a turn if they are waiting. I can ask to play with others. It's ok if they say no, as there are other fun things to play with on my own. If I feel unsure how to use something, I should ask my adult for help. If I get too hot or tired, I can ask to go somewhere cool, like under the shade structure or inside the Learning Center.



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 Zoo keeper will come talk to Zoo guests about an animal they take care of. I can ask the Zoo keeper 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.