



Preparing for a visit to the Dallas Zoo

Success Story - Updated July 2023

Planning a trip to the zoo is fun. There are some things I need to do to prepare.



There is a lot of walking at the zoo.
I will make sure I wear comfortable
clothing and shoes.

I will spend a lot of time outside.

I will make sure we check the
weather before going to the zoo.



I can bring food and water for
when I get hungry and thirsty.



Each person going to the zoo needs a ticket. We will buy our tickets online ahead of time. A zoo helper will scan our tickets to let us in. We might have to wait in line for a few minutes until it's our turn. This is okay.



If I am not sure where to go, I can ask a person in a zoo shirt. They will help me find my way.



There are many noises at the Zoo.
My parent can stop at the Info Booth
to borrow a KultureCity™ backpack
with silencing headphones if needed.
I can also cover my ears if I don't like
to hear the loud noises.



* Sensory toys and headphones are
sanitized after each use.

Inside the zoo there are a lot of things to see. I can look at a map and signs to help me find my way.



I will cross a wide bridge to get to the Sensory Friendly Day activities in Zoo North and to see animals. The bridge is safe. I won't fall in.



The cement paths take me to the animal exhibits. I walk safely everywhere I go.



The animals I want to see will
be behind a fence or glass.
This is their home.



If I want to talk to an animal, I can wave, smile, or speak softly.
The animal may get scared if I climb on the fence or tap on the glass.



Sometimes the animals are playing where I can't see them. It is okay if I don't see every animal at the zoo.



Zookeepers wear zoo shirts. I can talk to a zookeeper if I want to learn more about an animal. I will try to wait until they are not talking to someone. Waiting my turn to talk makes everyone happy.



There are special things for me to do at the zoo today. I can do them if I want. I will take my turn so everyone can have fun.



I can go to the Children's Zoo area if I want. Here I can play by the water. I can get wet or slide down a slide.



I can pet a goat. The goats like to be touched gently on their backs and sides. I will use walking feet so I do not scare the goats.



I can see birds up close in Birds Landing. This is their home. If I want a bird to land on me, I need to hold still so I don't scare the birds.

If I don't want a bird to land on me, I might just watch from the outside.



If I get hungry or thirsty, I can eat my snack or buy something at the zoo if my parents want to.



There are lots of places to sit and eat my snack or just to take a break.



There are more animals on the other side of the zoo, but the Sensory Friendly Day activities are in Zoo North.

If I choose to go to the other side, I will walk through a tunnel.



It is okay to not like walking through the tunnel, and there are a few things I can do that may help me feel better about walking through to the other side.

I can cover my ears. I can close my eyes and hold someone's hand.

I can use my imagination to pretend the tunnel is anyplace or anything

I want it to be!



When it is time to leave the zoo,
the exit signs show me the way out.
I can always come back to the zoo
on another day.

