



**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 have to stay with my group and be patient. We might be near the main entrance or the entrance to Zoombezi Bay.



When we get to the front of the Zoo, the first stop is Evolv. I will walk through the gray dividers and listen to directions. Security will let me know if they need to check our bag. They are making sure the Zoo is safe. If it is busy, I can be patient and wait my turn.



It can get loud while waiting to enter the Zoo, and I will have to wait patiently in line. I can talk to an adult if I feel overwhelmed. Sometimes, it is very busy and it can take a long time to get into the Zoo.

When waiting, there are restrooms available. If I need to use the restroom, I can talk to an adult.

There are no restrooms at the Zoombezi Bay entrance.



When we are ready to go into the Zoo, we will go through the gate all together. 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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