I'm going on a field trip to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium!
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!