



# ZOOMAZIUM

## Social Narrative



# HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

This visual guide is meant to help young guests and their families plan and enjoy their visit to Zoomazium. It is designed to be printed and arranged in an order that supports you during your visit. Simply remove any pages that do not apply to you. The pages for snack and break can be dispersed anywhere in the story, and you can print more than one if needed!

We also included sensory triggers to help prepare those with sensitivities for a successful zoo trip. Look for these symbols to help you prepare:



Loud noises



Smelly



Animals close-up/  
moving video



Tactile



Quiet Space



Active  
movement



Music

This guide has been designed to be used alongside our zoo-wide Choose Your Own Adventure social today. You can find the Social Story [by clicking this link.](#)

Once you have arranged your social story, we suggest reading it a few times before your visit. This will help you know what to expect and have a better zoo visit. The “Choices” page at the end of this social story has photos for other needs you may have during your visit.

# TIPS

- Zoomazium offers a wide variety of play options that change seasonally. This can include building with large play materials, physical play, imaginative play, arts and crafts, and small world creation.
- If you or someone in your group is a low-sensory play seeker, early mornings and Low-Sensory Friday\* tend to be our calmest times to visit.
- \*Every Friday, Zoomazium prioritizes low-sensory experiences by closing the climbing tree and turning down audio for reduced volume levels and lowering the brightness of our lights.
- If you or someone in your group would benefit from sensory tools such as noise-canceling headphones, weighted blankets, fidgets, or pinwheels, you may ask a Zoomazium staff person where to find them.
- For our littlest guests, the Toddler Zone can be the best option for calmer play, tummy time, and building confidence or independence.
- Strollers need to be parked outside of Zoomazium but always bring in snacks to store in a cubby. The squirrels and crows are very skilled at getting snacks from lunchboxes and containers.
- Zoomazium has nature-inspired playscapes designed for risky play. The goal for the space is to build confidence around navigating the outdoors and playing in nature.
- The majority of our play is open-ended, but occasionally we have optional dance parties, story times, and programming happening in Zoomazium.
- The #5 bus stops at N. 55th Street and Phinney Avenue N, right by the zoo's West Entrance, which is closest to Zoomazium. Taking the bus is a great way to reduce carbon emissions!



## COME PLAY!

On my trip to the zoo, I can visit Zoomazium to play and learn indoors.

Zoomazium is open until 3 p.m. every day.

There is a small circular door for children and a big rectangular door for children and adults.

I can push the square button on the right of the big door to automatically open the big door.



# STROLLER PARKING

If I have a stroller, I will leave it outside to the side of the entrance.

I will bring all my snacks inside and store them in the cubbies to keep them away from crows and squirrels.

I cannot eat my snacks inside, but I can eat them outside on the snack patio.



# ENTERING ZOOMAZIUM

There is a tree decorated with lights in the corner that I can see as I go through the doors to Zoomazium.

The decorations change each season, so they may be different the next time I visit.



# **STORE BELONGINGS**

The cubbies are a place to store jackets, snacks, and other belongings. I can choose if I would like to wear my shoes or store them in a cubby.

The family restrooms are right next to the cubbies. They have two toilets, two child-level sinks, and a changing table.



Zoo staff are here to help! If I lose my grownup, get hurt, or have a question, I can always ask someone who works at the zoo. They wear green shirts or jackets and a nametag.

# CHOICES

If I need something, I can always tell my grownup or a staff person. If I want to, I can point to what I need on this page.

## HEADPHONES



## SENSORY ITEM



## BAND-AID



## BATHROOM



## SNACK (outside)



## DRAWING SUPPLIES



# EMOTIONS

I can use the emotion icons to help tell people how I feel. I point to the icon which describes how I feel.



Happy



Neutral



Sad



Tired



Scared



Angry



# VOLUME LEVELS

Zoomazium can be a busy place! Lots of children are excited to run and yell while they play, so it may be very noisy.

Weekends and afternoons can be when Zoomazium is busiest. I can tell my grown-up or a staff person if I feel uncomfortable and need sensory tools.



# LOW SENSORY FRIDAYS

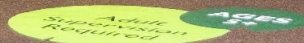
On Low Sensory Fridays, the lights will be more like the light outside, the sounds will not be as loud, and the climbing tree will be closed.

Low Sensory Friday in Zoomazium happens every Friday!

LOW SENSORY  
FRIDAY

*The climbing tree  
is closed today.*

Ask staff for more information.





# PHYSICAL PLAY

I may want to move my body in little and big ways. The mountain and caves, climbing tree, and the open space of the Savanna are places in Zoomazium where I can climb, crawl, slide, and build.



I can find video screens with animals and natural habitats in the caves and water pools. They change seasonally so they may be different the next time I visit.



There may be lots of other children and grown-ups playing in these spaces with me.





# EXPLORATORY PLAY

I can explore hands-on activities and materials in the toddler zone, nature nook, and at the tables under the tent. The play materials can change seasonally so they might be different the next time I visit. I can also find items from nature in these areas. I can touch and play with these natural items carefully.



Sometimes these spaces can be busy with lots of children playing. I can share the toys.





# STORYTELLING

I can use my imagination to tell stories, build habitats, take care of animals, etc. in the open space or stage. I can play with the puppet wall, stage, and large play materials on the rug.



There may be a program with stories happening on the stage. I can either enjoy the program or play in another area.





## TAKING A BREAK

If I need to take a break from playing, the nursing nook, snack patio, or reading area by the tree bookshelf can be good spaces.

I can find a large variety of books to read. When I'm done reading my book, I can put it back on the shelf.



The outdoor patio is another quiet spot to relax. It is shaded and usually cool. I can eat my snacks on the patio.



Shhh



# THE SAVANNA

In the open space of the Savanna, there are large play toys that I can build or create something new, move, and use to set up a scene for play.



The options for play rotate seasonally and may be different the next time I visit Zoomazium.





# TODDLER ZONE

The Toddler Zone is a gated area with a small mountain, a crawl-through log, a newt habitat, and a cave to explore! There is also a screen with still images of animals who live at the zoo.

This is a special area that helps smaller children stay safe while they play. I will watch out for smaller children if I play in this area.





# NURSING NOOK

There is a calmer corner in a less busy part of Zoomazium where I might see babies nursing. There are comfy chairs to sit in and lots of books to read. This is a quiet place to take a break and relax!

Shhh



# THE MOUNTAIN

In the big mountain, the cave area is dark and has video screens with animals and natural habitats. The videos change with the seasons so next time I come they might be different.

There is a wobbly bridge, and lots of space to climb, crawl and slide.





# CLIMBING TREE

This is the climbing tree. The entrance is located behind the tree in the corner. This very large tree can be dark, loud, and busy. It has a climbing structure with a slide inside of it.

If I feel scared when I am in the tree, there is a special door on the side of the tree that zoo staff can open to help me get out.





# NATURE NOOK

At the Nature Nook, I can find items from nature, including some animal objects. I can touch these items carefully.

By the window, there is a plant tank. I can look through the glass to see what is inside!





# THE TENT

There is a big tent with chairs and tables for activities. Sometimes the table is busy with lots of children playing. I can share the toys at the tables.

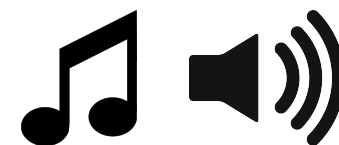




## TIME TO CLEAN UP

When it is time to clean up, I will hear an announcement on the speakers. Then, I will hear the clean-up song. I will see a picture on the big screen that helps me remember that it is time to clean up.

I will put away the toys I was playing with and help others who are cleaning.



# CHOICES

When I leave Zoomazium, I can tell my grownup what I would like to do next. If I would like to see more animals at the zoo, use the bathroom, have a snack, or go home, I can point to what I would like to do on this page. What a fun day it was!

## BATHROOM



## TOOLS



## VISIT ANIMALS



## BREAK



## SNACK



## LEAVE THE ZOO

