



Sensory Friendly Tips

We are excited to have you and your family visit us at ZooTampa at Lowry at Lowry Park. Our goal is to share information in advance of your visit to help you and your family prepare to create unforgettable natural connections through fun games, activities, animal mingles, and rides. Below you will find a list of tips to help you plan ahead and make the most of your time with us.

Preparing For Your Visit

We recommend bringing the following items with you to the event:

- **Ear Protection**
The Zoo can still be very noisy with the animals on habitat and other guests' voices. Ear plugs or headphones may contribute to a less intense experience for your family member. You may bring your own, or we will also have disposable ear plugs available at no cost (while supplies last).
- **A Sensory Toy**
Keeping your loved one calm might be an issue due to the sights, sounds, scents and busy activity around the Zoo. Have a sensory toy on hand—like a stress ball or other calming item—to help prevent or assist him or her from experiencing sensory overload. We will also have a pool of Distract Packs with sensory and fidget items available for checkout at no cost (while supplies last).
- **Bug Spray and Sunscreen**
As the weather warms up, it's always a good idea to apply a layer of sunscreen and bug spray. A majority of your time with us will be spent outdoors. The Manatee Circle Fountain and Wallaroo Station splash pad is typically open during regular park hours, so slip resistant water shoes are recommended for those using the water elements.
- **Food and Drink**
We have various food locations throughout the Zoo. Those with additional dietary needs have the option of bringing a small quantity of specialty items for personal consumption. No straws, please, for the safety of our animals.
- **A Safety Bracelet or Nametag**
If appropriate based on your specific circumstances, place a bracelet, nametag or some variety of visual identification on your child. Include his or her name, all important medical information, and anything else that should be known. Please include your name and contact number as well.

At the Zoo

- **Arrival**
The Zoo's regular operating hours are 9:30 to 5:00 p.m. daily. As you arrive at the Zoo, Security conducts hand held electronic wand and bag checks before entry. No weapons are allowed.
- **Quiet Areas**
Our Zoo is quite large, and you will find a number of areas within the park where you can stop and sit. While the volume of noise is not controlled during our regular hours, it is our experience that that several quiet areas exist that some of our guests have found suitable to use as quiet areas. These include: at the Penguin Conservation Center (near the Jungle Carousel), Lake Sharon area, and at the front entrance next to

the Tours and Guest Services Booth. There are also benches to sit on at the Manatee Circle and throughout Zoo Boulevard. If you need assistance locating a quiet space, please ask a Zoo employee or volunteer.

Guest Assistance

If you are in need of assistance, please speak with a member of Zoo staff. If your child gets separated from your group, please speak with Zoo staff for assistance. Questions in advance of your visit can be answered by contacting our Guest Relations team at 813-935-8552.

Special Thanks

We acknowledge the generous efforts of the Center for Autism & Related Disorders (CARD) at USF for their efforts in helping to make our Zoo and inclusive environment for all.

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