GOING TO THE CINCINNATI ZOO
We can park under the solar panels in the main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, we may need to park in a different parking lot.
If we park in the main lot, we will walk toward the Zoo entrance and take the escalator, stairs or elevator. My family or group can decide if we will use the escalator, stairs or elevator. I may need to wait if we use the elevator.
Once we’ve gone up, we will walk across the bridge that crosses over the street. The bridge is safe and it will take me to the zoo!

If I feel scared walking across the bridge, I can do lots of things to help me feel better. I can hold someone’s hand, take deep breaths, and tell myself that the bridge is safe and I am okay.
After crossing the bridge, we can buy tickets at the ticket building to the right. We might have to wait in line to buy our tickets and that is okay.
After we buy our tickets, we go to the entrance gate. There might be a lot of people waiting to go into the Zoo. I will try to wait patiently. When it is my turn, the Zoo staff will scan our tickets and we can go into the Zoo!
I will follow the Zoo rules so that I am safe and the animals are safe. I will walk only on the paths to keep me, the animals, and the plants safe.
I will stay with my family or group. If I get away from my group, I can ask a Zoo staff member to help me. Zoo staff members wear shirts with the Cincinnati Zoo logo and name badge.
I will try to use a quiet voice so that I don’t scare the animals.
If it is crowded, I might have to wait for my turn to see an animal or do an activity and that is okay.
We can also get a Zoo map at the ticket office.
I can see many animals at the Zoo. I can plan which animals I want to see. I might not have time to see all of the animals and some animals might not be available when I’m at the Zoo. That’s okay. Maybe I can see them the next time I come to the Zoo.
Some animals are behind a glass wall. The glass is very thick and it keeps me, and the animals, safe. I might be able to see an animal very close up! Other people may be standing in front of me. I will wait my turn to see the animals up close. I will keep my body to myself and be patient.
There might be a few animals that I can touch, like a lizard or a goat. I will follow the rules when I touch an animal so that I am safe and the animal is safe.
Some places at the Zoo (like the elephant house, the flamingos, Wings of the World, the Night Hunters, and the Andean bear) have strong smells. If the smell is too strong for me, I can cover my nose or go to a less smelly area.
Some places at the zoo can be loud. On Gibbon Island, the gibbons sometimes make a very loud call. The train whistle can sound loud. The restaurant can also be noisy if it is crowded. If a place is too loud for me, I can use headphones or go to a quieter area.
I might be able to ride the train at the Zoo. We need to buy a ticket if we are going to ride the train.
I might be able to ride the carousel at the Zoo. We need to buy a ticket if we are going to ride the carousel.
I might be able to see a short movie at the 4D Theater. We need to buy a ticket if we are going to go to the 4D Theater.

A lot of people might want to do these activities, and I might have to wait in line for my turn. That is okay. I might be excited when it is my turn and proud that I could wait!
I might be able to go to an animal program at the Zoo to learn more about certain animals. The animal programs are Cheetah Encounter and Barnyard Bonanza. I can see the times for these programs on the Zoo website.
If we want to eat at the Zoo, we can bring food from home or buy food at a Zoo restaurant. The Base Camp Café has burgers, sandwiches, pizza, soup, and salads. Other Zoo restaurants include LaRosa’s, Skyline, and Wild Burger. Not all the restaurants are always open, so we can check the zoo website on the Zoo Today page for hours.
There are restrooms throughout the Zoo for when I need a bathroom break. Most of the restrooms have automatic flush toilets and air hand dryers. If it is too loud, I can use headphones, cover my ears, or use the sensory friendly bathrooms located in Entry Village.
If I’m tired from all the walking at the Zoo, I can rest on a bench until I’m ready to see more animals.
If I need to take a break from the action at the Zoo, I can ask my adult to take me to a quiet place. The Peace Garden (near Wings of the World) and the Passenger Pigeon Memorial (between World of the Insect and Gorilla World) are quiet places, as well as the Sensory Gardens that are indicated on the Sensory Map.
There are Zoo gift shops. If my group agrees, we can look in the gift shops. I may not be able to buy something at the gift shop every time I visit. That is okay.
When it is time to leave the Zoo, I will walk with my family or group out the exit gate and cross the bridge. We can take the escalator, stairs or elevator down to the parking lot. We will walk to the car.
Everyone is so proud of me when I follow the rules and have a good day at the Zoo!

I might want to come back to the Cincinnati Zoo again another day!