SENSORY-FRIENDLY SANTA

at the

CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

Social Narrative
I am going to meet Santa at the Cincinnati Zoo!
It might be cold when I go to visit Santa, so I will need to wear warm clothes.
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.
Masks are optional at the Zoo, and I might see people wearing a mask.
Once we enter the Zoo, we will follow signs to the new picnic shelters. There will be lots of decorations set up!
We will pass the Carousel, but it will be closed. We can possibly ride the Carousel the next time we are at the Zoo.
At the Picnic Shelter, we will tell the worker our first and last name so they know we’ve arrived.

Our tickets have a time for when we can meet Santa. We will have to wait our turn, and we will try to be patient.
While I wait, I can sit on a bench.
I can see how many people are going before me on the white board so I will know when it’s my turn.
There will be a light tunnel that we walk under to go see Santa.
If I need it, I can ask someone at the Zoo for a Sensory Bag that has tools I can use while I wait to see Santa.
There will be a hot chocolate stand near Santa. If my group agrees, we can get hot chocolate!
There will be a lot of pretty decorations that I can look at while I wait to see Santa. I will only look and not touch or climb on the decorations to keep me safe.
When it is our turn, we will go to meet Santa. There will be a person there to help us, some people to take pictures of us, and Santa.
Santa is very nice to everyone and very patient. He will be very happy to see me.

He will smile at me and talk to me. Santa may ask me what my name is, or what I want for Christmas.
When I meet Santa, I can do many things. I can talk to him or show him things. I can sit in front of him on a bench or stand in front of it if I prefer.

I might feel shy, and that’s okay! Santa will be very happy to see me no matter how I feel.
Santa’s helpers will take a picture of me with Santa. I can tell them if I don’t want to have my picture taken. My family can also take pictures.
There are a lot of people who want to see Santa, so I can only spend a short period of time with him.

I will get a warning when my time with Santa is almost over.
We can buy a photo of our visit, but it’s okay if we do not buy one.
Santa will be so happy I came to meet him!
THANK YOU TO OUR SENSORY-FRIENDLY SANTA!