We’re going to the Bronx Zoo!

A social story about visiting Dinosaur Safari.
We are going to visit the Dinosaur Safari at the Bronx Zoo. Dinosaur Safari will have many life size models of dinosaurs along the path. Seeing huge dinosaurs can be really fun!
Dinosaur Safari will be a long walk, so we will use the bathroom and fill our water bottles near the Madagascar exhibit before we go to the Safari.
If I think the noises at Dinosaur Safari might be hard for me, I can borrow a Sensory Bag from the zoo. The bags can be checked out at Guest Relations, next to the Sea Lion Pool. Sensory Bags have headphones and fidget tools that can help me feel calm. We can use the bag all day, and return it before we leave the zoo so other people can use it the next day.
We may need to wait in line to enter Dinosaur Safari. We will wait patiently, and when it is our turn my grown up will show our tickets to the zoo staff so we can enter.
Before we enter the Dinosaur Safari, my grown up can download a dinosaur guide on their phone. This guide will tell us all about the dinosaurs we will see on the trail. We will also see signs along the way that will tell us about the dinosaurs.
When it is our turn, we will start at the Dinosaur Safari Field Station. In the field station I can take photos with some of the dinosaurs up close.
There may be dig sites open where I can dig in the sand to look for dinosaur fossils. If they are open, I can use the brushes and tools to gently move the sand to find the fossils. If I don’t like how the sand feels, that’s okay. I can put the tools down and stop touching the sand. If the dig site is not open, that’s okay. We can come back and try again another day.
Once we finish at the field station, we will head to the entrance of the dinosaur trail. There will be a person there to say hello. We can wave to them or say, “hi” if we want to.
The dinosaurs on the trail will be very big. They will move and some dinosaurs will make noise. Some noises may be loud. That's okay. I can cover my ears or put on my headphones if I don’t like the sounds.
Some of the dinosaurs will look like they are eating other dinosaurs. That’s okay. Sometimes animals do eat other animals to stay strong and healthy.
As we walk the trail, we may meet people in uniform along the way who will ask if I want to play a game with them. These games can be fun! But if I don’t want to play, I can just say, “No, thank you”.

Some games may include smells that I don’t like. That’s okay. I can say, “yuck” and move away from the smell.
At the end of the trail there may be carts open for snacks and souvenirs. It may be loud and have a lot of people. If I feel uncomfortable, I will let my grown up know and we can leave this area.
When we get to the end of the Dinosaur Safari trail, we will be at the Birds of Prey exhibit. We can spend time looking at the birds if we want to.
If we need a break, we can have a rest at the benches across the path from the Birds of Prey. The Zoo Shuttle drives on this road, so I will stay with my grown up and be careful of vehicles. There are more benches up the stairs on Astor Court.
After visiting Dinosaur Safari there are more things to see and do at the zoo! My grown up can use the Map on their phone so we can pick where to go next.

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