

Sensory Exploration at Familiar Friends

A trail around the Familiar Friends farm area of Colchester Zoo



How To Use This Pack

This pack is designed for SEND visitors to use with their carers whilst visiting the Zoo.

This is a short trail designed to use the main senses to explore the Familiar Friends farm area.

A longer trail is also available to explore the wider Zoo.

On the next page is a map highlighting the area the trail takes place.

On each page there are symbols, which represent the senses. These will indicate which sense or senses will be focused on. Below is a key for these symbols.



Visitors can use their eyes



Visitors can use their hands



Visitors can use their nose



Visitors can use their ears



Wash hands after touching an animal

MAP KEYS

-  First Aid
-  Information
-  Gift Shop
-  Picnic Area
-  Play Area
-  Toilets
-  Fire Assembly Point
-  Face Painting



Entrance and Exit

4

3

2

1

Hello

My name is Jacob the goat.

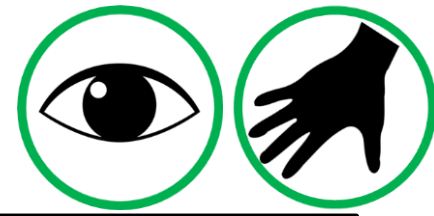
Would you like to join me and explore the Zoo?

Let us start at Koi Niwa. That is  on my map.





Welcome to Koi Niwa!



Outside there are many plants.



What colours are the plants?

There is also a big statue of a koi fish.

What colours do I see?

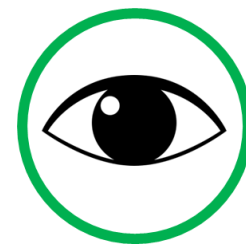
Touch some of the plants.

How do they feel? _____





Inside Koi Niwa



If it is not too busy inside, it is nice to sit down and watch the koi fish.


This is where our koi fish live. There is one big tank and another smaller tank.

How many koi fish can I see in the big tank? _____



It is not very loud in here, but there are still some sounds.

What can I hear? _____

Let us go to Sensation Station, which is number  on my map.

This is home to many animals. On quiet days, at set times, there is an animal out with a zoo keeper.

If I am gentle I can touch the animal.

It might be furry or scaly or even spiky!

If there is not an animal out to touch, I can check the times and come back later.

It may be very warm inside because the animals enjoy the heat.





Sensation Station



Is there a zoo keeper with an animal? _____

If I want , I can ask the zoo keeper if I may touch the animal.

If other people are with the zoo keeper, I can wait for my turn.

When touching an animal, I must listen to what the keeper says and be gentle.

What is the animal? _____ How does the animal feel? _____

When I have finished touching the animal, I must wash my hands.

There are other animals in here. Can I see them?



The Flower Garden



The next stop is the Flower Garden which is  on my map.

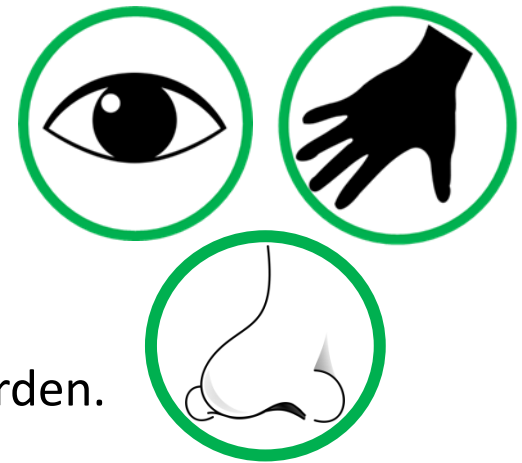
As I go to the Flower Garden there are puzzles and musical instruments on the side of the path, in front of the bushes.

If I want, I can play with these.





The Flower Garden



There are many different types of flowers and plants in the garden.
Bees and butterflies get their food from these plants.

Some of the plants have labels. What are the names of 3 of the plants?

Are the flowers in bloom? If so what colours can I see?

If I want to, I can smell some of the flowers.

If I smell the flowers, did I...

Like the smell



not mind the smell



not like the smell



The Farm Animals



The next stop is the farm animals which are  on my map.

This is home to the wallabies, llamas, alpacas, rhea, sheep and my fellow goats!

I can buy food to feed the goats and sheep.
If I bought food, what did it feel like when the animal ate the food from my hand? _____



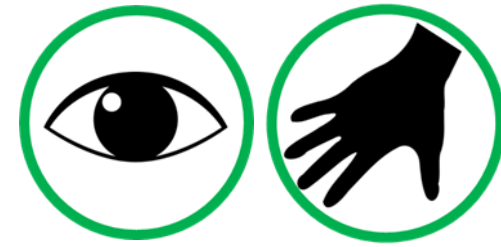
Even if I do not buy food, I can walk in with the goats and sheep. I can also walk in with the wallabies.

I can also gentle touch the goats and sheep if they are close to me.





The Farm Animals



The wallabies like to rest during the day because they spend most of the night awake.



How many wallabies can I see resting? _____

I can see a horse or donkey at the stable. Meg is the biggest horse and Drew is the smallest donkey.



Am I taller or smaller than the horse or donkey? _____

If I gently stroked the horse or donkey, what did it feel like?



The End



That brings us to the end of the trail.

Did I enjoy the trail?



There are many more animals to see, hear and smell!

What animal do I think will be the smelliest? _____

What animal do I think will be the loudest? _____

What animal do I think will be the quietest? _____

Have a great day exploring the rest of the Zoo.

Goodbye!