

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

Hello



My name is Jacob the goat.

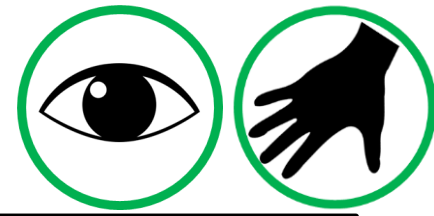
Would you like to join me and explore the Zoo?
As we go around There will be many smells,
sounds, and things to see.

There may be crowds of visitors and Colchester
Zoo staff.

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.

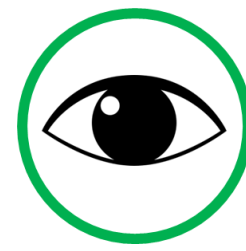
What colours do I see?



What can I hear?



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? _____

Can I see the bubble jets in the water? _____



Sensation Station



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

This is home to many different kinds of bugs that live in glass tanks.

I can have a look at the bugs if I want to.

How many bugs can I find? _____

Can I see the stick insects? How many legs do stick insects have? _____

Can I see any slim trails left by the snails? _____





Sensation Station



At certain times there may be a Zoo Keeper with some different bugs I can hold if I want to.

Is there a Zoo Keeper with an animal? _____

If I want to, 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 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 to, 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  4 on my map.

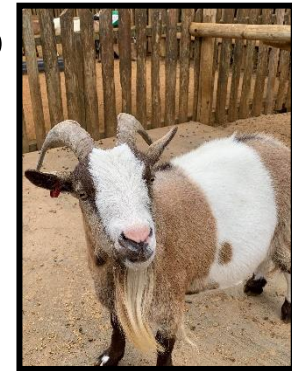
This is home to the wallabies, llamas, alpacas, sheep and goats!

I can buy food to feed the goats and sheep and can go through the gates to meet them. They may come up very close to me. The Goats can be pushy, they might run into me. I must remain calm. I can leave if I want to.

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 gently touch the goats and sheep if they are close to me.

If I don't want to go in with the goats and sheep I can still see them from the platform.





The Farm Animals



I can also walk in with the wallabies. The ground may be bumpy and the wallabies might come very close to me.

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



How many wallabies can I see resting? _____

What can I smell? _____



The End



That brings us to the end of the trail.

Did I enjoy the trail?



There is lot more of Colchester Zoo to explore and 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!