Today I am going to the Tennessee Aquarium. The Tennessee Aquarium is a place where I can see animals from the river and the ocean and learn about them!
When I arrive, we will get our tickets at the River Place Ticketing Center under the blue awnings and a staff member will scan them so we can go inside.
I can visit the River Journey building to see the exhibits with animals from the river.
Once I go inside, my tour begins with a ride up a long escalator, but I can also take the elevator. I can start seeing the different animals in the Aquarium’s exhibits.
The Aquarium can be a very dark and crowded place, but seeing the animals is a fun experience.
I will try to stay close to my group while I am at the aquarium. If I get lost from my group or need help, I need to stay calm and ask a staff member or volunteer for help. They all wear blue shirts.
The Headphone Zone signs let me know that I am in an area that may get very loud. It is a good idea for me to put on my headphones in these areas.
I may get to touch some animals in the touch tank! If I do not want to touch them, I don’t have to.
I can visit the Ocean Journey building to see the exhibits with the animals from the ocean!
At the Aquarium, I can also visit the Butterfly Garden and see all the different kinds of butterflies.
It is so interesting to learn about the different kinds of butterflies.
I can learn a lot from the staff members when they have programs about different animals!
It may get crowded, but that is okay because this is a sensory inclusive aquarium.
At the Aquarium, there might be bright lights, loud noises, or large crowds. If there is too much noise or too many people are around me, I can ask a staff member for a sensory bag or get a bag at the guest services desk.
There are items in the sensory bag that will help me feel calm. I can use the headphones and the fidget tools in the sensory bag to help me stay calm and enjoy the Aquarium with my group or family.
If it is too much for me, I can also look for the signs that say “Quiet Area” or one of the Family Restrooms. The Quiet Area is a place where I can go if I need to take a break or need to relax.
I may get to see a movie at the IMAX Theater!
Inside of the IMAX Theater, I can buy popcorn and refreshments for the movie.
If the IMAX Theater is too loud or too bright, I can use the sensory bag, or go to one of the quiet spaces outside in the IMAX Garden.
Knowing what to expect when I go to the Tennessee Aquarium will help me stay calm and make everyone feel good!
Good-bye for now. I had a great day and can't wait to come back to see the animals at the Tennessee Aquarium.