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.

- ![Eye](image) Visitors can use their eyes
- ![Hand](image) Visitors can use their hands
- ![Nose](image) Visitors can use their nose
- ![Ear](image) Visitors can use their ears
- ![Wash Hands](image) Wash hands after touching an animal
My name is Jacob the goat.

Would you like to join me and explore the Zoo?

Let us start at Koi Niwa. That is \(^1\) 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? ___________________________________________________________
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 2 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.
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 next stop is the Flower Garden which is 3 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.
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 next stop is the farm animals which are 4 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!