

MONTHLY VISUAL SUPPORT



May 2013

Successfully Structuring Field Trips for Students on the Autism Spectrum

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For many classrooms, the end of the school year, means end of the school year field trips! Field trips can be educational and exciting for students. However, for children on the autism spectrum, field trips mean a change in schedule and routine. Changes in schedule and environments can be overwhelming, over stimulating and confusing for some students. Here are some simple tips to prepare students with autism for end of the year schedule changes and field trips.

Prior to the field trip:

- If available, get a brochure or print information from the website. This might include pictures of what the student may see on the field trip, special rules, etc.
- A few days beforehand, allow the student to visit the destination's website. Some websites have virtual tours.
- Write a social narrative or storybook describing what the student may experience on the field trip (see Social Narrative-Zoo Field Trip).
- Prepare a "travel bag" for the student, which can include fidget items, special diet items for lunch, etc.
- Prepare for sensory issues such as sunglasses, hats, sunscreen, bug repellent wipes, etc.
- Provide the student with a disposable camera. On the camera, place a label that contains phone numbers and addresses.
- Create a daily calendar so the students can visually see how many days before the field trip. (see zoo calendar)
- Starting a week prior to the trip, on a daily basis, revisit calendar, social narrative, etc. to prepare the student.
- Have all students make a field trip necklace or wrist band that contains school information, contact numbers, etc. to wear on the field trip.

The day of the field trip:

- Read social narrative/storybook.
- Review visual rules (see Zoo Field Trip Visual Expectations).
- Provide the student with a visual travel schedule. (see Zoo Schedule and Zoo Schedule 2)
- Remember to give the student transition countdowns. (i.e., "We have one more minute to look at the elephants, next is giraffes".)
- If the student is not accustomed to a bus ride, provide them with simple pictures of rules for the bus (walking feet, quiet voices, buckle up, etc.). For more concrete students, die cut a school bus, or, give them a toy school bus to hold. (see Bus Rules)
- Depending upon the student, assign him a "trip buddy".
- Provide a way for the student to be engaged in the activity. (See Zoo Check Off List I see)

After the field trip:

- Provide all students a way to communicate with their parents what they saw on the field trip, how they liked it, etc. (See Today at the Zoo I saw)



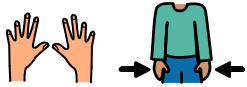
Bus Rules



Sit in seat.

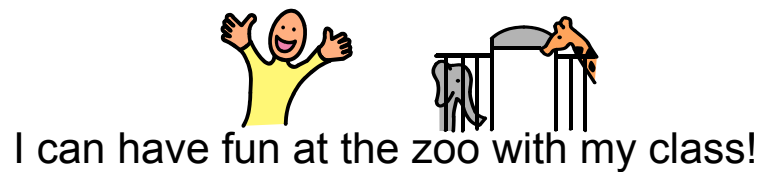
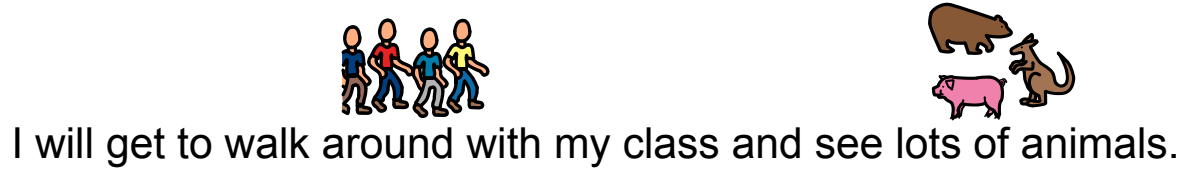
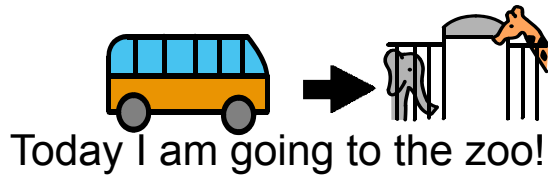


Keep seat belt on.



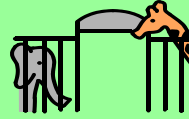
Keep hands to self.

Trip to Zoo

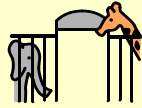


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Field Trip to the Zoo



today



saw

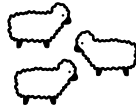


Today at the zoo I saw...

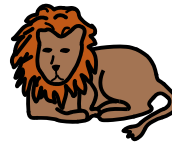
bears



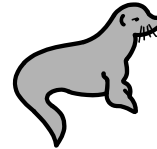
sheep



Lions



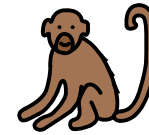
Sea Lions



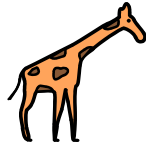
turtles



monkies



giraffes



tigers



hippo

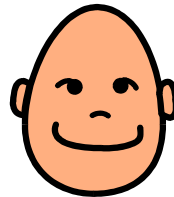


I had a

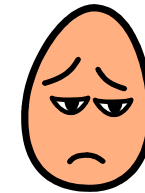
fun



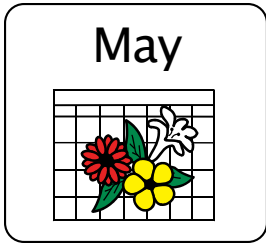
okay



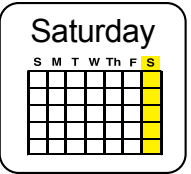
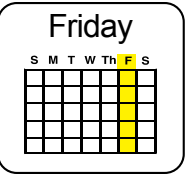
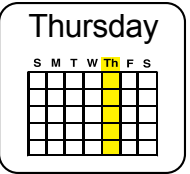
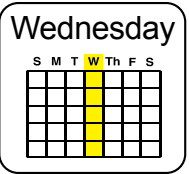
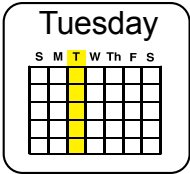
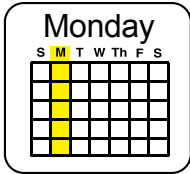
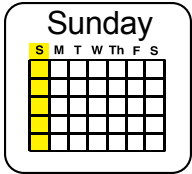
sad



day.



May 2013



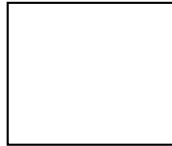
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	ZOO 17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

At the zoo I see....

Camel



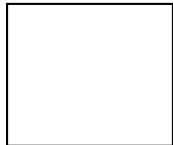
Bobcat



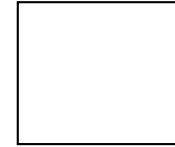
frog



wolf



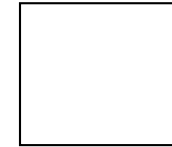
Birds



Monkey



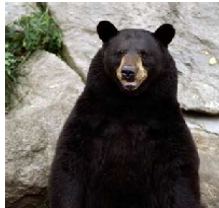
Snake

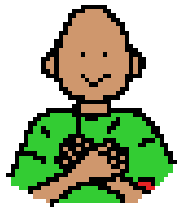


fox

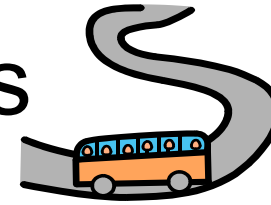


Bear

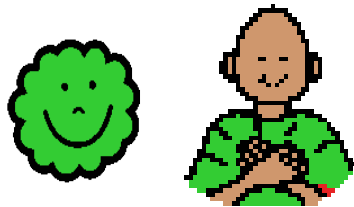




Staying safe on field trips



Field trips can be very fun with many places to explore. It is important to follow the rules on field trips in order to stay safe.



Yes, we can stay safe by:

looking with our eyes

staying out of cage

talking about what we need

taking a break

telling a teacher where we are going

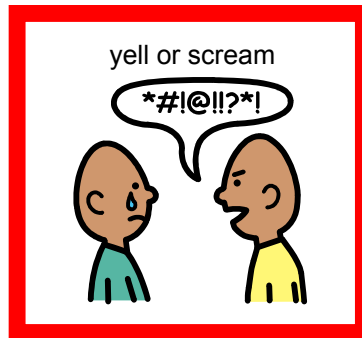
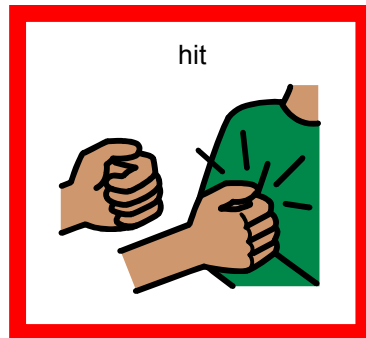
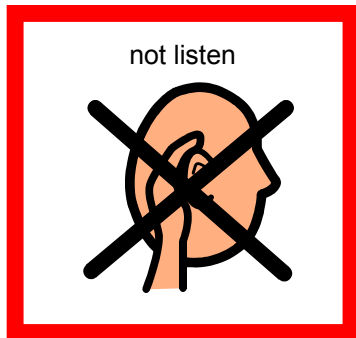
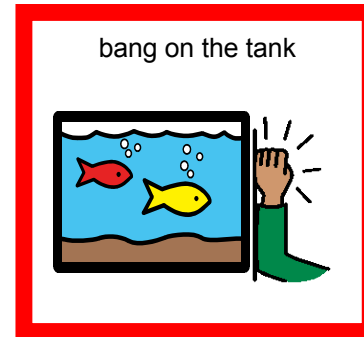
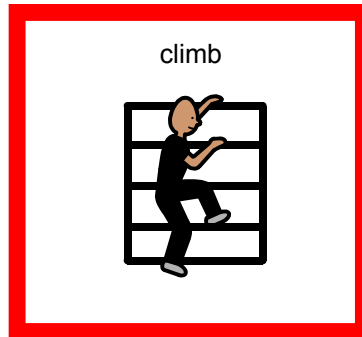
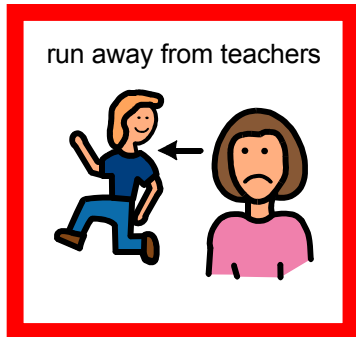
listening to teachers

staying with the group

having gentle hands



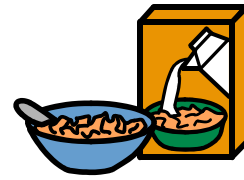
No, we are not safe when we:



Field Trip to the Zoo

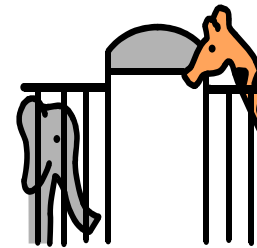
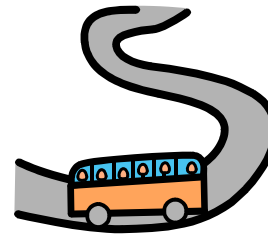
1

Eat breakfast and use the toilet.
Have leisure and circle.



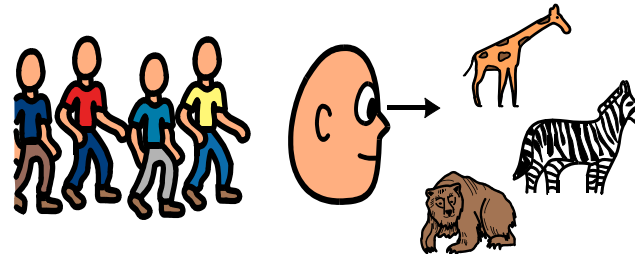
2

Ride the bus to the zoo.



3

Walk around.
Look at the animals.



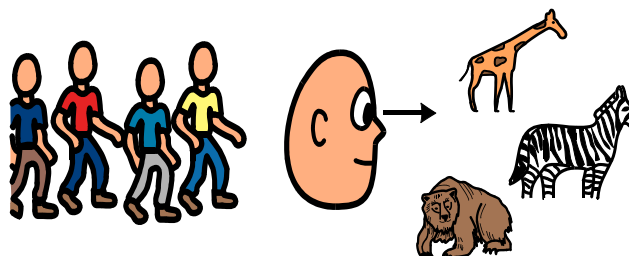
4

Have a picnic lunch.
Use the toilet.



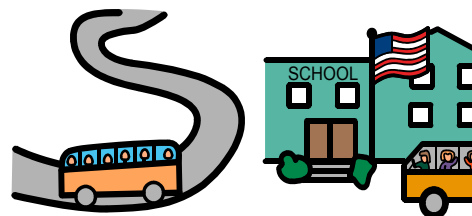
5

Walk around.
Look at the animals.



6

Ride the bus back
to school.



DAMON

VELCRO

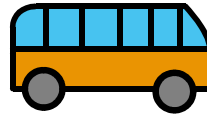
VELCRO

VELCRO

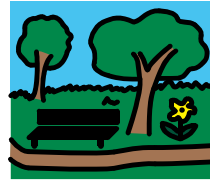
VELCRO

VELCRO

bus



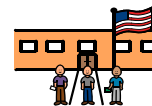
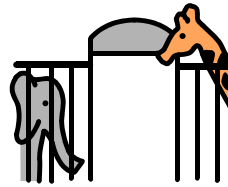
park

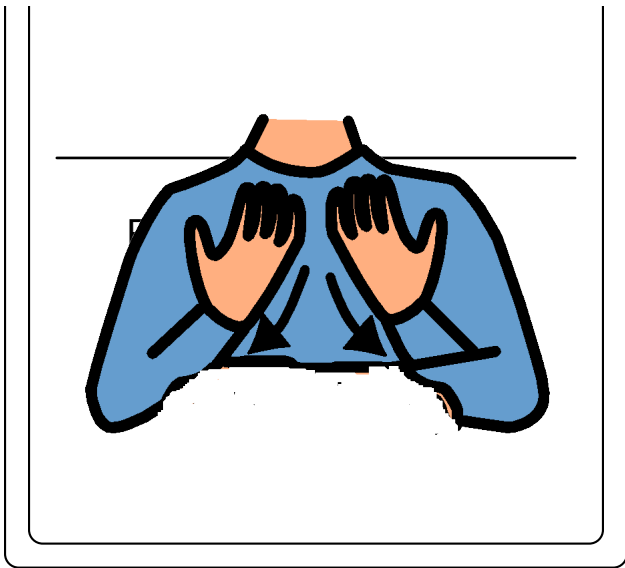


eat sack lunch



ZOO





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