

# I am going to visit the California Academy of Sciences!



*A pre-visit social story for young guests*



The museum is made of glass and gray concrete.  
This door is where I'll start.

My friends and I will get to explore the Academy and  
do some fun activities while we are there...









When we get to the museum we will be greeted at the entrance by the friendly staff.  
At the door, we can share a joke and have a laugh.



Running could hurt people or things in the Academy,  
so inside I should always walk.

## Noise Thermometer

<b>5</b>	Red voice = Yelling	
<b>4</b>	Orange voice = Loud Talking	
<b>3</b>	Yellow Voice = Normal Talking	
<b>2</b>	Green Voice = Quiet Talking	
<b>1</b>	Blue Voice = Whisper	
<b>0</b>	Gray Voice = No Talking	

I will also use an “inside” voice to talk.

I should use a Number 3, or “Normal Talking” voice.





When I enter the Academy the first thing I will see is a large *T. rex* dinosaur skeleton!

The Academy is an aquarium, planetarium, rainforest, and natural history museum. It also has a roof with plants on it!

We don't have to see everything in one day...



A natural history museum is a place to learn about the world around you.  
It has exhibits with skulls, skeletons, and fossils.

There are things to play with, and a few living animals  
hidden within the exhibits!

Here in *African Hall*, leopards roar and penguins swim!





To go into the rainforest I will need to wait in line and go through a special door...





The rainforest can be noisy and warm. I may want to take my coat off when we enter the glass dome. Butterflies and birds fly around their museum home...

If I am quiet the animals may let me come close.  
I should not touch the animals, only look.



My friends and I will slowly walk up the ramp, and at the very top we will get into the elevator to exit the rainforest. Before we go, we make sure no little butterflies are hiding in our clothes.

The elevator will go down. Before the doors open to the aquarium we have to wait patiently for the elevator doors behind us to close.





We are now entering the Aquarium.

Now I can walk under the fish tank I saw in the rainforest!



The aquarium has many tanks with fish, snakes, frogs, jellyfish, and an octopus.

Some tanks are huge and some are small.



There are hands-on areas that could be fun to visit. These places can be busy and noisy sometimes. I will need to share with other people in the space and wait my turn.

The *Discovery Tidepool* has cold water with starfish and sea urchins that are alive. I can touch them gently with two fingers. Volunteers will help me if I have questions.



We can take the stairs or elevator to get around the museum.

If we take the elevator, we may have to wait for a few minutes, and it may be crowded inside.

It is also good for me to keep my feet on the ground while I am in the elevator, and to wait for people to get off before I go on.



Here is the Living Roof, where I can look out at the park and the sky in all directions.  
If it is a clear day, I can see a long way!



The Naturalist Center has some skulls and animal skins and fur that I can touch.

It also has games I can play. I should ask an employee in an orange vest first before I touch anything.



We can ask the staff or volunteers to guide us to things we might like, and docents in orange coats will answer questions and are nice.





Another thing I can do if I want to take a break when I am at the museum is go to the East Garden. There is space where I can play and run around. There are also chairs, tables, and a sandbox.



There are a lot of scheduled programs that I can go to. Some will ask for volunteers from the audience. I can volunteer if I want to. I can also ask a question. Some programs include science experiments, or theater presentations, or animal feedings.



Leaving the Academy may be hard but I won't cry.  
I can always come back with my family, so this isn't goodbye!

