

# My excursion to Healesville Sanctuary



Autism Friendly Social Script for School Visits

My class is going on an excursion to Healesville Sanctuary for the day.

I will see many animals up close, like emus and koalas. They live in enclosures. I will be safe because they cannot reach me. I might get to feed or touch an animal if a keeper says it's ok.



I might travel by car or by bus with my class. When I arrive at the gates I will wait with my class while our teacher buys the tickets.

That's okay because I can talk to my friends or look at the Bunjil sculpture and tall trees around me.

There might be people I don't know who are also waiting to buy tickets. They will be excited to see the animals too.



I will stand with my class and maybe some other children from other schools to hear about what I will be doing for the day.

They will tell us a story about a special animal so I will need to listen carefully. I might be invited to do some actions like the animal in the story. I can join in if I want to.



After we leave the Discovery Centre our teacher will tell us where we will go. I must always stay with my group and follow my teacher.



When I walk around I might see keepers and education staff with animals. I must remember to ask the keeper if I can touch the animal they are holding.

I can ask the keeper questions and I will remember to use a quiet voice when I talk to the animals so I don't frighten them.



It might be hard to see some animals in their enclosures.

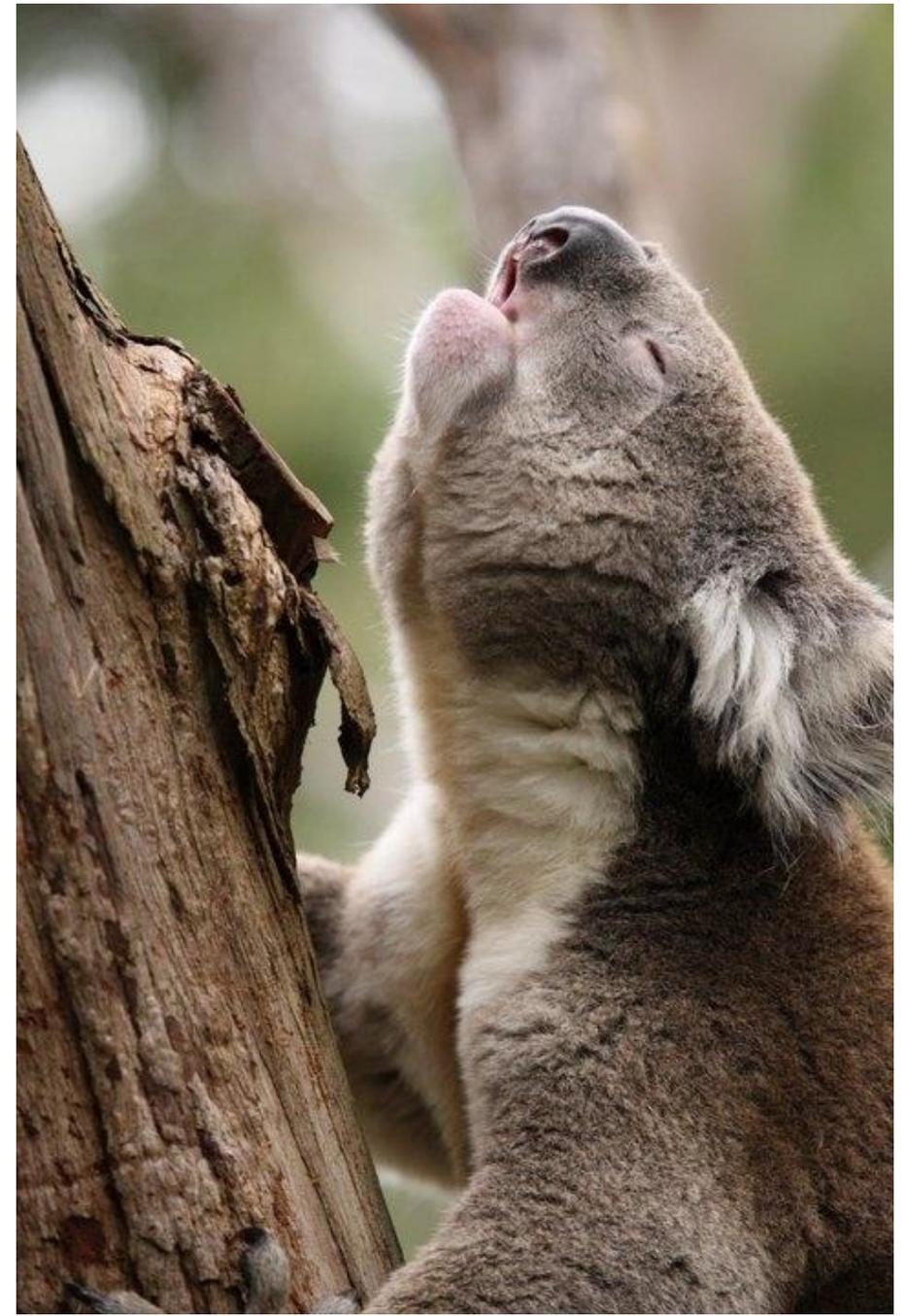
That is because they like to have a quiet place to go sometimes away from view.

It is okay if I don't see every animal at the Sanctuary.



There might be unusual smells and sounds as I walk around the Sanctuary. Animals can smell very different from us.

Sometimes animals can make loud noises when they are communicating with each other.



Our class might go into exhibits and aviaries where the birds and animals can get quite close. I will always stay on the path and not touch them.

I might get surprised or worried if an animal comes close to me. They are safe and I will remember to stay calm and stand close to my teacher. I can tell my teacher if I want to leave a place.



Some places I visit will be dark.

This is because the animals that live there are nocturnal. Nocturnal animals sleep during the day and come out when it is dark at night.

If I walk quietly and slowly I might be able to spot some nocturnal animals. I must never run around in these places and always stay with my group.



Some reptiles I visit will be behind glass.

I will be safe and I can walk up close to see them better.

I won't knock on the glass or scare them.



My class might go to watch the *Spirits of the Sky* bird show. I will sit on the seats with the other visitors. The keepers will be wearing microphones so we can hear them tell us all about the birds in the show.

I must not eat anything while I watch and I must stay sitting down for the whole show. I can stand up when the show has finished.



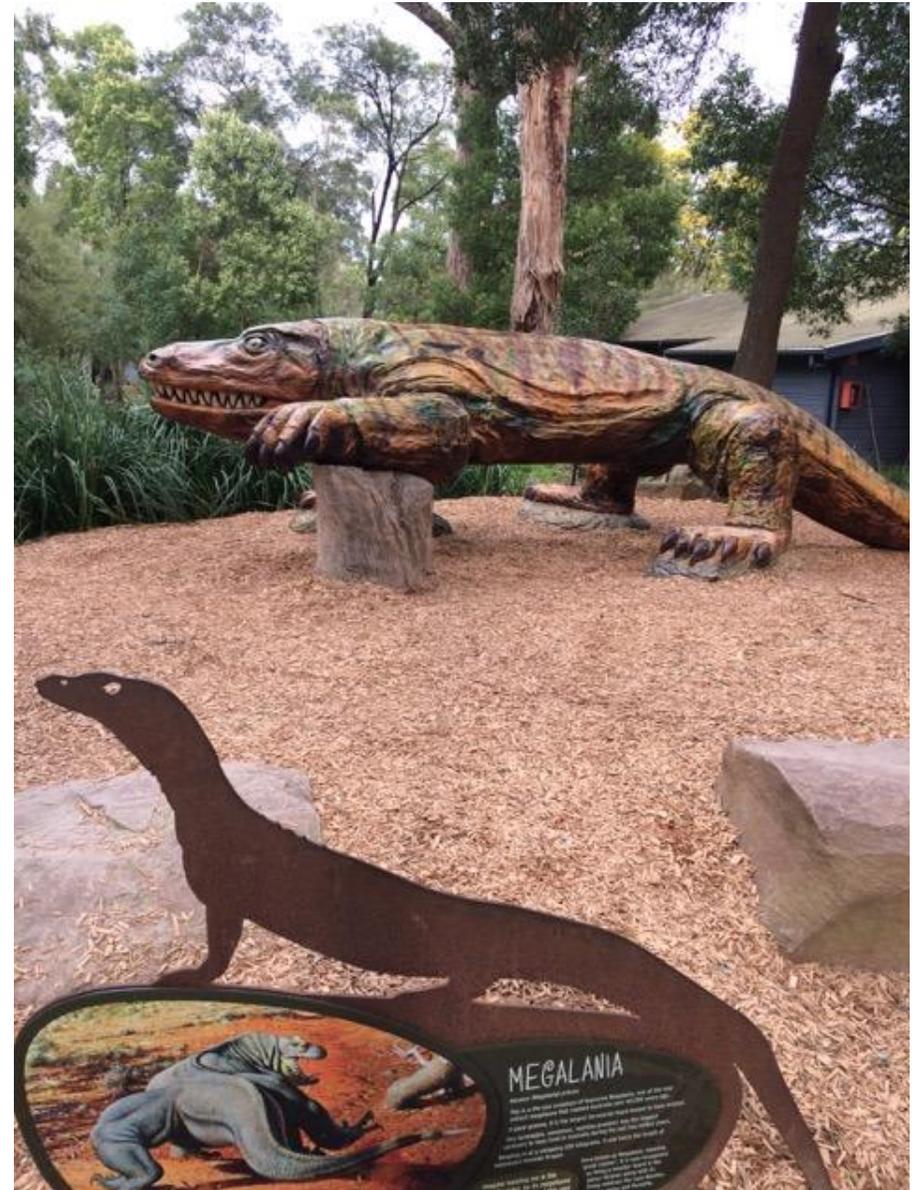
My teacher will let us know when it is time to eat lunch.

I will sit with my group and remember to put all my rubbish in the bin. We might sit outside or under cover if it is raining.

If I need to go to the toilet I can tell my teacher and they can show me where to go.



There will be playgrounds and things that I can climb on. I will ask my teacher where it is OK to play.



Many people visit Healesville Sanctuary and many people work there too.

If I get lost, I will ask people wearing uniforms that say 'Zoos Victoria' for help.

They might be wearing light-brown, dark-blue or dark-green.

They might use a radio to talk to other people to help me.



When we have seen all the places our class has planned, I will walk with my teacher back to the entrance.

I can wave and say goodbye to any staff and animals I see on my way to the bus.

When I get home I can tell all my family and friends about the animals I saw at the Sanctuary.



# Important things to remember

- ✓ Listen to the adult who is leading my group
- ✓ Stay close to my group
- ✓ Walk and not run
- ✓ Speak with my quiet voice, even though it may be noisy
- ✓ Wait patiently when I have to line up
- ✓ Only touch things and climb on things that I am allowed to
- ✓ Listen carefully when an adult is talking to me
- ✓ Be quiet around the animals and not scare them by tapping on the glass
- ✓ Do not feed or throw any objects into the animals' homes

All the staff at Healesville Sanctuary love to have visitors and are very excited to have my class visit.

