Smithsonian National Zoo Sensory Tips

General Tips for Visitors
- Not all animals will be on view and some Exhibits may be closed.
- Some animal might not be very active when you visit. Please be mindful of the animals and do not tap or bang on the glass.
- There are many concession and gift stores throughout the zoo.
- There are misters along Olstead Rd. that spray water onto the road and people.
- The zoo gets very crowded and can be overwhelming. If your child is sensitive to large crowds and loud noises, consider visiting during non-peak times such as XXXX.

Elephant Community Center
- Elephant place has lots of interactive stuff and some will make noise or show a video.
- Also good to point out that the elephants are not always inside the house.

Elephant trail
- Interactive at the Elephant Outpost and enclosure
- Has heavy traffic and a store.
- Also located right next to bathrooms
- Interactive computer stations make noise

Asia trail
Panda
- Some tactile but mostly really crowded.
- Point out that there is one door you go in and one you go out.
- A good place to remind kids about waiting and lines.

Small mammal house
- Moonlight show case has horrible noise from an overhead speaker. Meant to be crickets I think. Fails miserably.
- Acoustics in the Lemus exhibit are bad and can get overwhelming when a lot of people are present.
- Lemurs are pretty active though so they will be fun for kids to watch if other animals are not moving

Apes indoor
- "Wow they smell gross" – small girl upon stepping into the building (my thoughts exactly)
**Reptiles**
Low animal noise but high people noise.
"What's inside?" is interactive but just barely
Narrow walkways that will get crowded

**Think tank**
A good place if people need to get out of the crowds and sit down for a bit
Lots of touch and interactive without all the people
Some quieter corners to chill in and chairs that can be moved to corners etc.
One slightly creepy statue

**American trail**
Crowded by concessions
Interactive and water by seals and sea lions. Lots of little kids splashing around
Cafe
Underground part with touch screen

**Take A Break Spaces**
Outside of ape house (The big tent with the train has some tables outside that people can use)
Gibbon Ridge: off shoot from ape place with benches. Less traffic.
Behind invertebrate house
Behind ape house
Bottom of Olmsted rd. band stand