Visiting the Petting Zoo
Sensory Key

There are lots of things to see here. It might be bright or hurt my eyes in places where I see this. I can wear sunglasses or cover my eyes.

There are lots of things to hear here. It might be loud in places where I see this. I can wear headphones or cover my ears if it gets too loud.

When I see this there will be things I can taste here. I do not have to put anything in my mouth if I do not want to.

There might be a strong smell in places where I see this. I can hold my nose or cover my nose with something that smells good.

There are lots of things to touch here. There might be things that I feel uncomfortable touching when I see this. I do not have to touch anything that I do not want to.
We are going to visit the Petting Zoo

The Petting Zoo is in Wallaroo Station. We can get there by following the map and signs. In the Petting Zoo, we will get to see and pet the goats. We might even feed the goats.
When we see the sign for the Petting Zoo, we will go to the gate on the right with the “entrance” sign. An employee will tell us when it is okay to open the gate.
After we go through the gate, we will see a second gate. We will wait for the first gate to close. The employee will go over the rules and then open the second gate. We will use our walking feet to enter the Petting Zoo.
Sometimes we will see pigs or llamas on the other side of the fence, but they are not for petting. We will stay in the Petting Zoo area. We will NOT reach across the fence. If a goat decides to go on the other side of the fence, we can visit another animal in the Petting Zoo.
Inside the Petting Zoo there is a bucket of brushes. We can use these to brush the goats. Sometimes we will have to wait our turn, but that is okay. We can pet the goats while we wait.
We will use our hands to gently pet the goats on their backs. If we don’t want to pet them, we don’t have to. We can watch the goats instead.

If we have a brush, we can gently comb the goats from their head towards their tail. We will take our turn and remember to share with others.
When we are finished petting the goats, we will go to the gate with the “exit” sign. Just like the entrance, there are two gates. We will wait to open the second gate until the first gate is closed.
We will wash our hands at the handwashing station and continue our day at ZooTampa at Lowry Park. If we want to feed the goats, we can feed from outside the Petting Zoo.
Feeding the Goats

The goat feeding area is on the outside of the Petting Zoo fence. We will see a goat food dispenser. This costs extra money. Maybe we will feed the goats today. Maybe we will feed the goats another day.
We will place two quarters in the slots and turn the knob to get the goat food. Goat food will come out the bottom of the machine. It is dry and has a smell to it.
We will hold the goat food flat in our hands. The goats will place their heads through the fence. They will eat from our hands. We will feel their tongue picking up the food.
Sometimes we will have more than one goat come over to us for food. That is okay. If we get nervous we can take a step back. When we are finished, our hands will be dirty. We can go wash them.
We will wash our hands at the handwashing station and continue our day at ZooTampa at Lowry Park.
ZooTampa at Lowry Park has teamed up with the Center For Autism & Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida to provide support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism and related disabilities. Please utilize the resources provided to properly plan for your visit to ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

We also recognize the support of Autism Shifts, The Learning Academy, Autism Speaks and the Diversity Action Coalition and applaud their efforts to promote inclusive experiences.”