My Trip to

James & Anne

Robinson Nature Center
I’m going on a trip to the Robinson Nature Center!
Before I go inside, I see a place for people to play! It is called the “Nature Place.”
Sometimes, it is crowded here.

Sometimes, there is no one here.
People build things here. I can too.

People make music here. I can too.
People swing here. I can too.

People slide here. I can too.
People climb and jump here.

People step on the tree stumps.
I can climb here too. I will be very careful if I climb, and I will only climb if my family says I can.
When I am done playing, I want to go inside, but I see something else.

It’s a fountain and a pond!
I like the water, but the rocks are slippery. I could slip if I get on the rocks. I will stay on the path to look all around the pond.
Now I am ready to go inside. I open the doors, and I stop at the restroom to the left of the doors.
When I walk in the restroom, it might be dark. If I keep walking, the light turns on by itself. When I leave, the light turns off by itself. This is to help save energy.
Now I go through another set of doors. Wow! The Nature Center is very big.
I see a big desk with lots of colorful things behind it. I can say “hello” to the people at the desk and they can answer any questions I have about my visit. At the desk, they can lend me a backpack for my visit if I would like.
The backpack has a map of the building, my own nature explorer badge, headphones and fidget toys. I can use any of these items during my visit and then return them when I leave.
Past the desk, there is a door to a staircase. I can use this staircase to get to different floors of the building. There are lots of echoes in the staircase!
There is also an elevator. I can use this elevator to get to different floors of the building.
The elevator has lots of buttons inside it. I only press a button if I need to get to another floor.
When I pass the staircase and the elevator, I will find a room with lots of things to play with.
There are blocks, chalk and a place to draw, books, costumes, puppets, things to touch and even animals to look at!
This is a great room, but there are a few rules in the room since lots of people like to play in here.
One rule is that I am gentle and quiet when I am near where the animals are. If I bang on the wall, it will scare the animals.
Another rule is that I ask nicely if I see a toy I want to use and someone else is already using it. I will wait for my turn.
When I am done playing, I will put away the toys I used so someone else can find them. If I leave them out, someone could trip and get hurt.
Now, I want to go see more. Look at that table. It moves around! I can move the table and watch and hear the helicopter fly.
If I keep looking, I see a big wheel. When I turn it, it makes noise and things in the wall start to move!
I keep hearing lots of noise. It sounds like birds, wind and outside sounds. If I don’t like the noises, I can use my headphones.
This part of the Nature Center looks and sounds like a noisy forest. I can touch things if I want. I ask to use the stairs or elevator if I don’t want to walk through the forest.
If I walk through the forest, there is a lift to get me downstairs if I need it. There are stairs too.
When I get downstairs, there are animals on the forest floor and more sounds. I can reach my hand out and touch the leaves on the ground!
It’s so neat that I can touch everything here as long as I am gentle. I will be gentle so that I am allowed to touch.
Now I am getting to a place where it looks like it is going to be dark. There are lots of nighttime noises.
I don’t have to go into the dark if I don’t want to. I can walk back through the forest to the staircase or lift.
I want to go into the dark. There are lots of nighttime sounds.

When I go around the corner, I see different color lights.
If I keep going, I hear a car door shut and the sound of an engine. I can exit through the open door.
Now it is light again. I see machines with buttons I can press to listen to sounds and with levers I can move.
If I need a quiet place, there is a dark, quiet room with a screen that shows pictures from space.
There is another quiet room that looks out onto a garden with bird feeders. I can sit here for as long as I want.
There are classrooms that aren’t open or may have lots of people in them. I am going to walk past the classrooms, not into them. I still have something really cool to see...
If I look out the window, I see a sign near the woods.

That’s a trail!
Trails go through the woods. There are lots of trees and plants. The ground can be muddy, rough or squishy.
I might see a squirrel or hear a bird calling. The wind might make noises too.
Trails are people paths. I stay on the trail because I am a person. Even if I see something neat like an animal or something shiny off the path, I stay on the path. It is my people path.
I’ve had a really great visit today. I can’t wait to come back!