Social Narrative

A guide to The Bakken Museum.
Museum Manners and General Expectations

I will use my indoor voice when in exhibit spaces.

I will take turns, and share the exhibits with other people.

I will ask museum staff to help me find a quiet spot if a break is needed.

We will stay together as a group when walking through the museum.

We will ask museum staff for assistance if needed.
Introduction

We are going to The Bakken Museum. Inside the museum we will see exhibits and artifacts that relate to innovation, science, and technology.

The Bakken Museum is currently working on renovating part of the lower level. When we’re there, some parts of the museum will be closed. They’re creating new spaces and experiences that we can enjoy later in the year. We can get noise cancelling headphones at the front desk. We can call ahead of time to make sure they’re ready for us.
We will enter the museum from the visitor parking lot. We will park in the parking lot, or walk up a curved driveway that leads to the entrance.

When we enter the museum, we will be on the second floor. There is also a first floor. Part of the first floor is under construction.

Once inside, we will go to the right to check in at the front desk.
“Lobby”/18th Century Room

During renovations, The Bakken Museum’s visitor services desk is in the 18th century room. The people at the front desk will sell us our tickets and will give us a museum map. We may have to wait in line at the front desk. I will wait patiently for my turn.

If we want to plan our visit, we can ask for a planning guide.

If I get lost or need assistance, I can return to this desk and ask for help.
In the 18th century room there is a glass case where we can learn about Benjamin Franklin.
There is also a machine called “Electricity is Life”.

If I want, I can try the machine.

It will send a small current of electricity through my body when I hold the levers and slowly raise the right handle. It will feel as if my arms are falling asleep.

I will use my inside voice if I get excited.
Restrooms

If we need to use the restroom, there are three on the second floor and one on the first floor. There is a drinking fountain by the lower level restrooms.
Exploring the Museum and the Exhibits

There are many exhibits at The Bakken Museum I can explore. If I need to take a break, I will ask museum staff and they will help me find a quiet spot.
Second Floor

Ben Franklin’s Electricity Party

In Ben Franklin’s Static Party room we can play with some artifacts that may give us a small static shock.

A static shock feels like a fast and small prick. It will have less of an effect if I approach it with a fist, using my knuckles.

If I do not want to feel a small static shock, I can keep my hands behind my back, and admire the artifacts on the table.
West Winds

This part of the museum used to be someone’s home. It was called the “West Winds Mansion.”

We can go explore the **Great Hall** and the **Sunroom**.
The Franklin Room & Reading Nook

If we need to take a break, I can let one of the staff members know and use the Franklin Room or the Reading Nook as a quiet, safe space.

If we want, we can pick a book and read it in the Reading Nook.

We can also shut the doors if we need private time.
Outdoor Gardens
If the weather is nice we can go outside and explore the West Winds’ gardens. This is weather permitting, so it may not be available.

Getting Downstairs
If we want to visit the Mary and Her Monster exhibit or Frankenstein’s Laboratory, we can take the stairs to the right of the Great Hall.
If we don’t feel like taking the stairs, there is an elevator that will take us to the lower level as well.
First Floor

Mary and Her Monster

In Mary and her Monster we can watch videos of Mary Shelley, and play word games. I will hear a pretend storm and people talking.

Frankenstein’s Laboratory

This exhibit tells the story of Frankenstein*. If we choose to watch the show, we will hear a man talking, and it will be dark. There are a few parts of the show that are loud, and might surprise me. I can leave Frankenstein’s Lab at any time. There is a script available if I want to read along.

*There are some brief flashes of lights used during the show that may affect photosensitive individuals.
Leaving The Bakken Museum
When I am ready to leave, we can go back to the lobby and exit out of the same door that we entered through.