Social Story
I am going to the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History. Inside the museum, there are dinosaur fossils, ancient rocks, and models of Michigan wildlife to teach visitors about our amazing planet.

When I arrive at the museum’s main entrance, I will see two black puma statues.

When I enter the museum atrium, I will see two big mastodon fossils. Above me, there will be two ancient whale skeletons hanging from the ceiling. If it is a busy day, it might be loud.
To my right, there is a **white host desk**. The host wears a bright blue shirt with a **maize Michigan M** on it. If I am **lost** or have any **questions**, I can get **help** from anyone wearing this shirt.

I can also talk to any of the **security officers** who are walking around the museum. They are wearing **khaki pants, dark blue polo shirts** and a **radio**.
I can get a **museum map** at the host desk. There are three floors in the museum, so I **might not have time to see everything**. I can talk with my group to figure out what we want to see the most. If my group wants to go to a planetarium show, we can **buy tickets at the museum store**.

I might also want to ask for a **sensory activity kit**!

These clear backpacks are available at the **host desk**. Besides the social narratives, they have headphones, emotion cards, and colorful toys to make my visit to the museum awesome.
If I want to take off my coat, I can hang it up in the **coatroom**. I can also put any bags in the **lockers**. I should leave behind any **food or drinks**, too.

If I get hungry during the day, I can eat at **Darwin’s Café**, which is right **next to the atrium**. They offer snacks like **muffins** and **pastries**, or I can have **soup** or a **sandwich**. Be sure to ask the host if they are open today.
In the museum, there are small green signs that say **PLEASE TOUCH**. I can touch any of the objects that have this label, like this cast of a mastodon tusk.

Next to the mastodons is the **Fossil Prep Lab**. I can look inside the lab to see what kinds of tools are used to clean real fossils. If there is a **scientist** working inside, I might be able to **ask them questions**.
In the **Science Forum**, there is usually a **film** with video and audio about Michigan nature playing on a loop. Other times, there will be a **science demonstration**, like a cow eye dissection. If I want, I can sit down on the wooden benches and watch.

There are two sets of doors on either side of the Science Forum. These lead to **Exploring Michigan**, an exhibit about the **state's wildlife**. There is even a Michigan **wolverine**!
Down the hall, I can go to the *Measuring Time and Space* exhibit, where there is calm music playing. There is a screen where I can raise my arms up and down to see big and small objects in our universe.

The entrance to the **planetarium** is up a ramp and through two doors. I can watch a **planetarium show** if my group bought tickets. The planetarium is dark, and the screen covers the whole dome. A docent will talk about the night sky. If I get **dizzy**, I can close my eyes.
I can take the **elevator** up to the second floor of the museum or down to the lower level. The elevator is **big**, and it might be empty or crowded. It also moves **slowly**, so I have time to rest and think about what I want to do next.

I can also take the **stairs**. To go to the **second floor**, I can use the stairs by the mastodons, and to go to the **lower level**, I can use the stairs by the host desk.
In the exhibit **Under the Microscope**, I can learn about the smallest things alive, like cells and bacteria. In the corner, there is a **video playing with gentle music**. If I want, I can watch examples of the life cycle in nature, such as a zebra being born.

If the **Micro Worlds Lab** is open, I can walk in with an adult. There are **science experiments** for anyone ages five or older, and anyone can take a look at the microscope on the table.
In the *Evolution Gallery’s Investigate Lab: Nature*, I can touch real fossils and learn more about their place in the natural world. There are fun *activities* on the tables about topics like trees and birds.

The *Majungasaurus* can be found in the *Evolution Gallery*. Although this is the museum’s newest dinosaur, it lived 68 million years ago! I can look at the *Majungasaurus’ huge tail* and *tiny arms*. 
The *Quetzalcoatlus* soars high above me in the west atrium, just as I exit the Evolution Gallery. The Quetzalcoatlus is one of the biggest flying animals of all time! I can *spread my arms out and pretend to fly.*

If I am *tired*, I can sit down in this quiet, sunny spot in the corner of the second floor. There are *comfortable* yellow chairs, and I can look out the tall windows and see the University of Michigan *campus.*
The exhibit on the lower level changes, but I might see the Bristle mammoth, which was found in nearby Chelsea, Michigan! There are videos with sound playing in this exhibit.

Throughout the museum, I will see different research stations about that U-M scientists do. I can stop at the stations to watch a video with captions and look at objects related to their work.
When I am done looking at the exhibits, I can go to the museum store and look at plush dinosaurs, astronaut ice cream, and museum hoodies.

Now I can pick up anything I left in the coatroom and say goodbye to the mastodons.

**Until next time!**
If found, please return to:

University of Michigan Museum of Natural History
Biological Sciences Building
1105 N University Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48109