

# Zoo Trip Checklist

By Fae Fisher

- Planning the Zoo Trip
  - Visit the zoo's website ahead of time to learn what is offered and at what times.
  - Plan your trip for times when the zoo is less crowded.
  - If possible, purchase tickets online.
  - Find out the feeding schedule so you can see the animals in action.
  - Check to see if there are any animal shows or zookeeper talks.
  - Visit the zoo's website to print out a map of the zoo.
  - Figure out what you definitely want to see and do.
  - On the map, have your child mark what she'd like to see.
  - Number each area in the order that you plan to visit.
  - Teach your children that they are visiting the animal's home and need to respect the environment.
  - Decide whether you will bring snacks and lunch, or will buy them at the zoo.
  - Pack the night before so the morning isn't crazy.
  - Watch the weather.
- At the Zoo
  - For older kids, plan a scavenger hunt before you get to the zoo.
  - Have your little zoo keeper hold onto a map and help keep track of where you are.
  - Encourage younger children to make animal sounds.
  - Don't rush.
- After the Zoo Trip
  - Consider 'adopting' a particular animal if your child was really impressed with it.
  - Consider a zoo camp.
  - Go to the library in search of animal books or do an Internet search to find out more.