

Amusement or Theme Park Before You Go



People riding on a swing ride.

AMUSEMENT OR THEME PARK BEFORE YOU GO

Before you take your child to a theme park, there are several things to consider that could be a trigger point for your child. We will review some of the important ones for you here.

- First, tell your child what theme park you are going to, how long it will take to get there, and show them a map of it. Physical layouts are important for children with disabilities because they often learn better by seeing versus hearing.
- Second, make the child aware of the rollercoasters and their sounds, how high they go, and the size of their cars.
- Third, make sure your child knows that there will be A LOT of screaming and large groups of people EVERYWHERE.

- Fourth, your child should be aware of the help they can receive from the park's customer service center. Make a call and see if there are any particular services that would benefit you, your child, and your family.

- Fifth, pack a bag! Pack extra clothes, sunglasses, sunscreen, head phones and anything else that will help your child's trip to the amusement park be more comfortable and fun for them.

DURING YOUR TRIP

During your trip to the amusement park, be sure you are always in a place where your child can see you. It is important that they know where you are so that if they get upset or stressed you are right there for them. While you are at the park, your child should have a copy of the park's map. You should also pick a meeting place where they can go if they get lost or separated from you. While at the amusement park, take note of where all the pavilions are. Your child could end up at one of them if they get lost. Wearing matching wrist bands is also a good idea. Anyone helping your child can look for you wearing that color wristband.

PROBLEMS

It is the middle of the day and the sun is the highest in the sky. Now your child is struggling to see and complaining about how bright it is. Sunglasses (or a hat) come in handy during any situation when your child's eyes are sensitive.



People riding a roller coaster.

Something else that may happen is that your child may have an accident either before, during, or after the rides. Some rides, for example, have water that can splash or a child may spill a drink on themselves. So bring a towel or an extra set of dry clothes.

All parks should have a first aid station. Just ask any employee where it is.



Crowd of people at an amusement park.