

# Outdoor Gardens Social Story

*A social story is a written story to help prepare people for an experience.*

Today, we are going to visit the outdoor gardens at the Garfield Park Conservatory. While the indoor gardens are closed, we are very happy to get to see lots of plants growing outside!



To get to the gardens, we walk along the marked path and stay six feet apart from other visitors. We wear our masks and check in with the entrance table to show our reservations.

The people at the entrance table are so happy to see us!



While we are at the Gardens, I will be able to hear the CTA Green Line train go by every few minutes. It can be loud. If the noise is too much, I can talk to my group to see how they can help me.



The first garden we walk through is the Sensory Garden. We have up to 90 minutes to spend at the Outdoor Gardens, so we can take our time and enjoy all the different plants that can be experienced through touch, look, and smell.

There is a bog in the garden with carnivorous plants, like Venus flytraps and pitcher plants! All of these extraordinary plants are so interesting! There are signs if I want to learn more.



From this part of the garden, there are many different paths that we can choose to take. I stay with my group as we decide where to go. There is also a labyrinth in the grass that we can walk through, which is a helpful way to feel calm. Or I can run on the lines to play!





The Play and Grow garden is closed for visitors, which might make some kids feel sad if they liked to play there, but it is closed to help keep our community safe.

The Urban Demonstration Garden is a good place to walk through to see different vegetables growing. This garden is popular, so I might need to walk with my group slowly to make sure that everyone has enough space.



If there are lots of people, the Bluestone Terrace nearby has chairs and is a good place to decompress! If we want to have a picnic, the Great Lawn near the Bluestone Terrace is the perfect place. We can remove our masks when we eat but we put them back on when we are done eating.



The Outdoor Gardens have a few paths that go around the Great Lawn. I can see trees, native flowers and grasses, large climbing rocks, and a beautiful lily pond.

The Lily Pond may be filled with flowers and while it looks nice, I will not go into the water.



To leave, we follow the signs. I make sure that we leave through the exit door, instead of going back to the entrance! It was a great time at the Outdoor Gardens. If we have a reservation to the Monet Garden, we walk back along the path to the sidewalk to go to that entrance.