

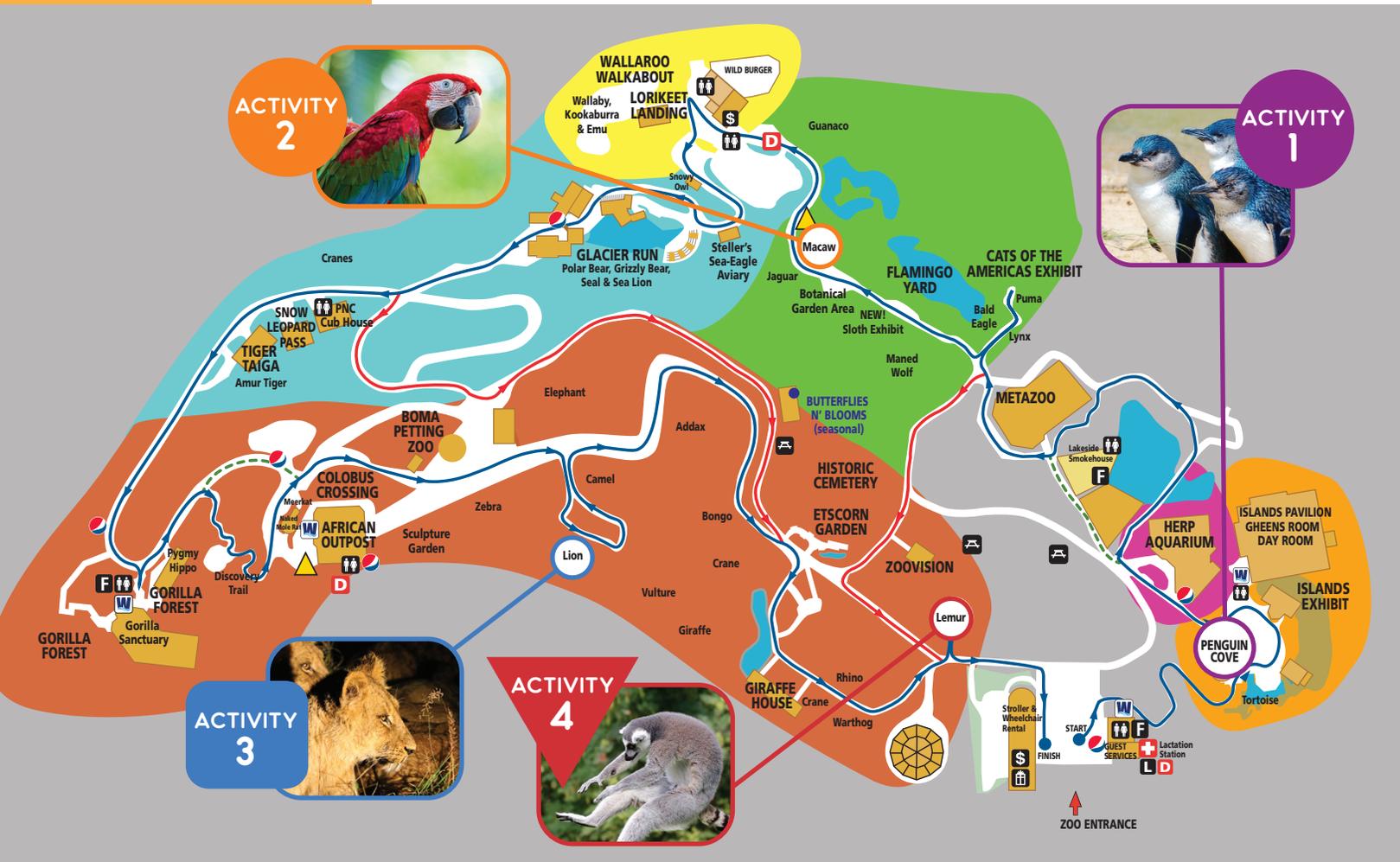
**ACTIVITY
BOOKLET**
for **preschoolers**
and their families



HI! GROWN UPS!

Welcome to the Louisville Zoo! This booklet is full of fun activities to help your child learn and grow while exploring the Zoo. It was designed for grown-ups and children to complete together. Each page has an educational animal-themed activity and a key at the bottom showing which skills your children will be practicing. Follow the map to learn cool animal facts, and practice using some awesome skills. Then, take this booklet home for continued fun and learning!

Enjoy the Louisville Zoo!



SKILLS KEY

Here's where you'll find the development skills your child will be practicing for each activity.

The *Ages & Stages Questionnaires*® from **Metro United Way** are questionnaires that help parents and caregivers identify a child's strengths and any areas that need encouragement and support. Enroll your child for free and receive a complimentary book at metrounitedway.org/asq.



- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| ATM MACHINE | FIRST AID |
| CONCESSIONS | AED DEFIBRILLATOR |
| GIFT SHOP | WATER FOUNTAIN |
| LOST CHILDREN | ATTRACTIONS |
| PHOTOS | PEPSICO MACHINES |
| PICNIC AREA | COVID WALKING PATH |
| RESTROOMS | BYPASS ROUTES |
| FAMILY RESTROOM | EXIT ROUTES |
| SMOKING ZONE | |

BIRD WATCHING & COUNTING

Birds are some of the most amazing animals on our planet! Why do you think birds are so special? For one, birds are the only kinds of animals covered in feathers. Birds come in so many sizes and colors. Can you find a bird at the Zoo with feathers that are your favorite color?

Ready, Set, COUNT!

Walking through the Zoo, see if you can count 30 birds. Count out loud to help keep track of your numbers and ask someone to count along with you! 1, 2, 3, 4...

Here's a hint: The birds you count don't have to be the same kind of bird! It might be a little tricky to count birds that live in groups, like our penguins, flamingos and lorikeets. See how many kinds of birds you can find!



THINGS TO DO AT THE ZOO!

ACTIVITY 1

PRACTICING SKILLS!

Mathematics

Counts in a sequence up to 30

COLORFUL MACAWS

Macaws are large parrots that have strong curved beaks for crushing nuts and seeds. They make loud squawks and screeches so they can be heard in the dense rainforest canopies where they live.

Macaws have brightly colored feathers. While these colors look bright and eye-catching to us, a macaw's feathers actually help them hide in the rainforest against colorful fruits and the bluish shadows of the tree leaves. Macaws come in a variety of colors. There are blue-yellow macaws, red-green macaws, green macaws and blue macaws. Did you find the Zoo's macaws? What color are they?

ACTIVITY 2

Try this!

Look at the pictures below and see if you can tell which macaw is a blue-yellow macaw, red-green macaw, green macaw and blue macaw. Write your answer below each picture.



A _____



B _____



C _____



D _____

PHOTO ANSWER KEY
A. Blue-yellow macaw
B. Green macaw
C. Blue macaw
D. Red-green macaw

PRACTICING SKILLS!

General Knowledge
Identifies basic colors



NIGHT & DAY

Walking through the Zoo, you might see that some of the animals are awake, and some are asleep. “Nocturnal” means that an animal is most active at nighttime. “Diurnal” describes animals that are most active during daylight hours.

All animals use their senses to explore their worlds. The five senses are seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting. Animals that are active during the day, such as giraffes, gorillas, elephants, orangutans, rhinos, parrots and monkeys, rely heavily on their sense of sight to survive.

How is daytime different from nighttime? Daytime has sunlight. It may be warmer than the night, and you are usually awake! What is night like? It is usually dark and cooler — the air may feel damp, and that is when you sleep!

Try this!

When you’re at the Zoo, take a minute to look at the lions. Are they sleeping or awake? What senses or body parts help them find food, water and safety at night?

Next, look at the giraffes and think about what you see. Are they moving around? What senses or body parts help them to find food, water and safety during the day?



ACTIVITY 3

PRACTICING SKILLS!

General Knowledge
Understands simple
concepts of time
(night and day)

THINGS TO DO AT THE ZOO!

JUMPING AROUND

Ring-tailed lemurs are a small primate native to Madagascar, an island off the southeast coast of Africa. Unlike most other lemur species, ring-tailed lemurs spend half of their time moving on all fours on the forest floor instead of in trees. They walk on the ground foraging for fruits, nuts and seeds. Watch the lemurs for a while. Did you see them walking or eating food?

Even though this lemur species spends a lot of time on the ground, they can still jump almost 10 feet straight up!

ACTIVITY 4

Try this!

Let's see how high you can jump! Try to jump as high as you can next to the lemur exhibit. How high can you jump? Was it as high as a ring-tailed lemur?



PRACTICING SKILLS!

Physical Well-Being

Runs, jumps and does other activities to develop large muscles

COUNTING ANIMALS

Have you ever heard someone call an animal “solitary”? Solitary means an animal lives alone.

An example of a solitary animal is the blue whale. Blue whales are the largest animals on Earth and live most of their lives alone, swimming in the oceans.

Not all animals live alone. Elephants, giraffes and bison are mammals that live in herds. Mammals are animals that have fur, make milk for their young, and whose body temperature stays the same when it’s cold or hot outside. Bees are another example of animals that live in groups. Bees live in colonies made up mostly of females all hatched from one queen! There can be over 20,000 bees in a single hive. That’s a lot of bees!

THINGS
TO DO AT
HOME!

Try this!

Now that we have learned about solitary animals and animals that live in a group, can you match the correct number to the animal groups below? Practice counting to ten first. Use your fingers to help you count if you need to. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10!

ACTIVITY 1

1

4

6

2

10

6 bison

10 bees

1 blue whale

2 elephants

4 giraffes

PRACTICING SKILLS!

General Knowledge
Matches objects with
numerals up to 10



THINGS TO DO AT HOME!

BEING A SLOTH ZOOKEEPER

Let's talk about taking care of our sloths! Sunni and Sebastian are two-toed sloths. They have two toes on their front feet and three toes on their back feet. Our sloths need special care every day of the year. That's why the sloth zookeepers are so important! They work hard to give our sloths the best care.

Our sloth zookeepers make sure Sunni and Sebastian have everything they need. One way they do this is by making a weekly schedule! A schedule helps the zookeepers remember everything they need to do for Sunni and Sebastian.

ACTIVITY 2



Try this!

Can you help our sloth zookeepers take care of Sunni and Sebastian? Our sloth zookeepers need to make a schedule of important things they have to do for the sloths. Look at the list below of tasks the zookeepers need to schedule for the week. Remember, Sunni and Sebastian need to get food and water once in the morning and once in the afternoon!

Sloth Care Tasks

Twice a Day

- A** Feed and water
- B** Outside exploring
- C** Training

Once a Day

- D** Make food
- E** Check exhibit temperature
- F** Clean

Once a Week

- G** Weigh the sloths
- H** Vet checkup
- I** Water plants

	Morning	Afternoon
Sunday	A B C D	A B C E F G
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

* This list was made specifically for use in this booklet and is not an accurate representation of actual zookeeper schedule/duties.

PRACTICING SKILLS!

General Knowledge

Understands simple concepts of time (yesterday, today and tomorrow)

KICKING IT!

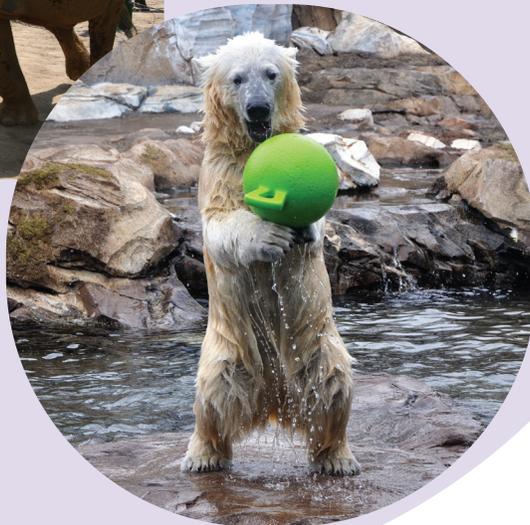
When you were exploring the Louisville Zoo, did you see large objects like balls, barrels or logs in the animals' exhibits? Did you see any of the animals playing with one of these things?

Our animals are given special items so they can practice using their natural senses. Our tigers run and pounce on the balls like they were prey! Our polar bear uses its keen eyesight to spot a barrel in the water and dive on top of it like it was seal. Our elephants use their trunks to kick and move logs around to explore their yard. All of these items help keep our animals active and healthy.

What's something you like to do to stay active? Do you like to play with balls? Is there a game you like to play?

Try this!

Can you kick a ball the length of a polar bear, which is 8 feet? Can you roll a rock over to discover any bugs underneath? Can you throw a ball to a friend to catch? Use your imagination to make up a new game to stay active!



ACTIVITY 3

PRACTICING SKILLS!

Physical Well-Being

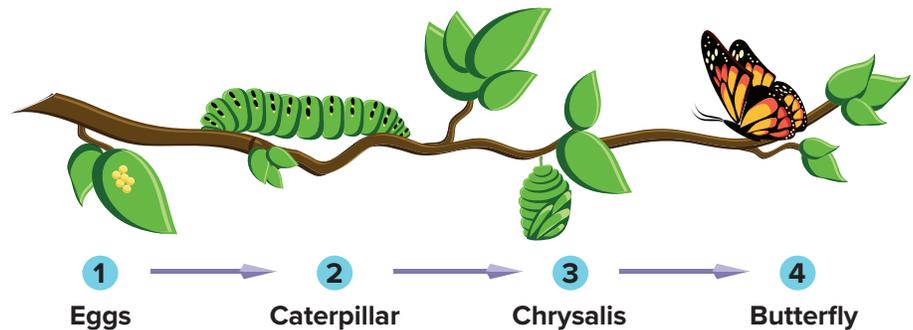
Runs, jumps and does other activities to develop large muscles

THINGS TO DO AT HOME!

BUTTERFLY SEEK & FIND

Depending on the time of year, you may have stopped and explored the Zoo's Butterfly House, Butterflies n' Bloom. Our butterfly house is home to many different species of butterflies during the spring and summer.

Butterflies go through a change called metamorphosis [met-uh-more-fuh-sis]. They start their lives as eggs and hatch into caterpillars. The caterpillars eat and grow until they can form a chrysalis [kris-uh-lis]. While they are inside the chrysalis, their bodies change into the butterflies you saw at the Butterfly House!



ACTIVITY 4

Try this!

Can you find any caterpillars or butterflies at your home? Look for places they might hide, like on some nearby flowers or on the underside of plants and tree leaves. You might find caterpillars or even a chrysalis! (Remember this is an eyes-only activity.)



PRACTICING SKILLS!

Social/Emotional

Shows curiosity and motivation to learn