My Visit to the Children’s Garden at The Morton Arboretum

Spring and Summer
I will be visiting the Children’s Garden at The Morton Arboretum. I am going to play outside and explore nature.
I can borrow a **Sensory Bag** at the Visitor Center, in the Children’s Garden or by asking someone who wears a name tag. The **Sensory Bag** has headphones, fidget tools, and other things I can use to feel **calm** if I am overwhelmed in the Children’s Garden.
When I arrive, someone who works or volunteers at the Children’s Garden may welcome my group at the entrance. If I need help or get separated from my group, I can ask someone with a name tag for help.
I can look at the map of the Children’s Garden or use the activity choice board in the Sensory Bag to help me decide where I want to go.
One of the first things I will see is a **large marble ball** with water running down the sides. I can **touch** this ball if I want to feel the cool water on my hands.
While exploring the Children’s Garden, I can walk on different textures of the ground, like grass with leaves, sidewalk, boardwalk, and woodchips.
The Children’s Garden has more areas where I can feel the water with my hands or feet. Other children may be playing here, as well. I can join them or I can wait until it’s quieter.
I can go down slides and climb tree roots. I can wait for my turn if other children want to use the slide, too.
I can use the **bathrooms** in the Children’s Garden. They are located **right by the picnic tables**.
I can **balance** myself on large planks. I can try to **move** the logs **myself** or ask for **help** if they are too heavy.
I can go on rope bridges and find tree houses up in the trees. Other children may come behind me, but I can take my time to get to the other side.
If I need a break, I can find a quieter area of the Children’s Garden and rest on a bench or in the grass. I can also use my headphones or other calming tools.
If I get **hungry**, I can have a snack in the Visitor Center or go to the picnic area.
When my visit is over, I will leave the Children’s Garden with my group and return the Sensory Bag to someone with a name tag. I had a great day exploring nature! Knowing what to expect made my visit fun and easy.
To collect and study trees, shrubs, and other plants from around the world, to display them across naturally beautiful landscapes for people to study and enjoy, and to learn how to grow them in ways that enhance our environment.

Our goal is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier, and more beautiful world.