Social Story #3: Expected and Unexpected Things!

Impression 5 Science Center is a fun place to play and explore.

There are some unexpected things that sometimes startle me when I am here. I like playing here, and I know it helps me to have a plan.
Dart Hall is right next to the front doors. It is an area that changes.

Sometimes, this area is an empty place to play.

Other times, travelling exhibits are in this area. Those exhibits stay for a short time or a long time, then they leave.

I will not always know what to expect in this area.
There are many exhibits at Impression 5 Science Center. Sometimes, an exhibit will be moved to a different space.

The map usually shows where exhibits are. If I cannot find something, I can ask a staff member for help finding it. All staff members will be wearing a name tag around their neck.
Impression 5 Science Center was named after our 5 senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. I may notice interesting or unusual things with my different senses in exhibits I visit today.
Sight!

There are lots of things at Impression 5 Science Center to look at and explore.

If something is too bright, I can ask about sunglasses (Guest Services may have them available). If something is too dark, I can wait for my eyes to adjust or move on to another exhibit.

If I feel overwhelmed, I can tell my adults. We may be able to find a low light, quiet room where I can relax and calm down or I can move to another space.
Hearing!

Exhibits are sometimes exciting and loud.

If something is too scary, I can ask my adult for help. They will help me go to another area or help me find another solution.

If something is loud, I can cover my ears, use earmuffs, or leave the space.
FLOW has a lot of moving water, which can be loud. The piano can be loud.

Other people can be noisy, too. An area that is crowded, like the lunch room, can be loud.

If a space is too loud for me, I can ask my adult for help. There may be a quiet room where I can calm down.

Or we can go to the Guest Services desk to find another solution like earplugs or earmuffs.
Impression 5 Science Center has spaces where I am allowed to eat. I can eat outside at a picnic table or in the Launch Pad. If I am with a school group, we may eat in the lunchroom.

I should not eat in the rest of the Science Center; I should eat only in the eating areas.

There are interesting and new things throughout the Science Center, but they aren’t food. So I shouldn’t eat them. Things like slime and toys look interesting, but I shouldn’t taste them.
Smell!

There may be strange smells at Impression 5 Science Center, too.

FLOW smells like chlorine and pool water because of the filters and cleaning solution to keep the water safe. POP may smell like dish soap.

The spaces where people eat or snack sometimes smell like food.

If a smell bothers me, I can ask my adult to move on to another area.
Some parts of Impression 5 Science Center will have unexpected experiences and textures for me to explore if I choose to.

*FLOW*, where there is lots of water, is wet. Inside *POP*, there are a lot of bubbles, which are wet with soap and may feel slimy or slippery.

I made slime; it feels wet, but very different than water.

If I do not like how something feels, I do not have to touch it. If I touch it and need to wipe my hands, I can see if there are paper towels nearby.

Or I can ask an adult to help me get something to wipe them with. I can wash my hands or get paper towels from the bathrooms.
There are restrooms on both floors of the Science Center.

They are behind colored doors on the first floor.

They are next to Build Zone on the second floor.

There are drinking fountains by the restrooms on both floors. I can ask my adults or a staff member if I need to find a drink or a restroom.
Sometimes there are workshops, classes, and special events happening at the Science Center. The costs and times for these will be listed on the chalkboards and dry-erase boards around the Science Center.

If I have questions about a special event, I can ask an Impression 5 Science Center staff member.

Impression 5 Science Center changes and may have unexpected things, but there will always be adults who can help me.