



#JoinTheJourney

Note to Caregivers: *I Am Going to Kennedy Space Center* is a *Social Story (Story). It may be used “as is” or shortened for a younger or more severely challenged audience by reading the most relevant sentences of each paragraph, omitting some paragraphs, or using a simpler vocabulary.

This Story may be personalized further with additional simple modifications. Caregivers are encouraged to tailor a Story to the temperament, personality, learning style, and interests of the audience. *The Kennedy Space Center Autism Awareness Guide* contains information that may be helpful in this process, as you plan what to see and what to include in your child’s Story. For example, *Journey to Mars: Explorers Wanted* contains several exhibits that require good fine motor skills or hand-to-eye coordination. In this case, reassuring sentences may be added to the Story, like this: “At Kennedy Space Center, we may visit Journey to Mars. Many children need help with some of the exhibits. This is okay. Mom, Dad, or Mike can help me. Someday, I may help my little sister, Jenna, with these exhibits.” The idea is simple: Keep what you know about your child in mind to select and provide information in advance about what lies ahead and ideas about how to respond.

Details can help to prevent upset and disappointment. To demonstrate this, *I Am Going to Kennedy Space Center* includes two paragraphs that describe the optional bus tour to launch sites and the Apollo/Saturn V Center. Children under age 13 may not sit in the front row of the bus. That’s good to know, especially if you are a child who loves to be “first”. To share this information in advance, include text that describes the reason first and then the resulting restriction, ending on an upbeat note if possible: “People must be 13 years of age or older to sit in the front row of the bus. It’s a safety rule. I am 8 years old. My family may sit in any empty seat from row two to the back of the bus to watch, listen, and learn as we ride.” Consider what you know about your child and add details like these as needed. Keep in mind that each piece of information makes a Story longer. Choose details carefully.

You may also change the illustrations in this Story to add meaning. Personal or high interest photos help to hold a child’s attention. In addition, photos from your visit can be used to create a follow-up Story of your visit to Kennedy Space Center.

To learn more about Social Stories visit their only official online home at www.CarolGraySocialStories.com.

* A Social Story accurately describes a context, skill, achievement, or concept according to 10 defining criteria. These criteria guide Story research, development, and implementation to ensure an overall patient and supportive quality, and a format, ‘voice’, content, and learning experience that is descriptive, meaningful, respectful, and physically, socially, and emotionally safe for the Story audience (a child, adolescent, or adult).

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Kennedy
Space
Center
VISITOR COMPLEX

I Am Going to Kennedy Space Center

Kennedy Space Center is where many people study, build vehicles, and launch missions to explore outer space. It's a place where men and women work on projects, like building and launching rockets. Right now, they are working on a new project to learn more about the sun.



Kennedy Space Center has attractions and tours to help people learn about missions to outer space. For example, there is *Heroes and Legends*, about people in space exploration; *Astronaut Encounter*, with a real astronaut; and *NASA NOW*, with exhibits about what NASA is working on now and in the future. There are many things to see and do.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [KennedySpaceCenter.com](https://www.KennedySpaceCenter.com)

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There is a bus tour to see launch sites and the *Apollo/Saturn V Center*. People must be thirteen years of age or older to sit in the front row of the bus. It's a safety rule. I am eight. My family may sit in any empty seat from row two to the back of the bus to watch, listen, and learn as we ride.

We may have to wait in a large group before entering the *Apollo/Saturn V* exhibit. This is okay. Waiting happens a lot with exhibits that many people want to see. The *Apollo/Saturn V Center* has two short movies. The second movie is about the Saturn launch, with a loud launch noise and vibrating theatre seats so people can see and hear what it's like to send a spacecraft into space. After the movies there is a cut-away model of Saturn 5 and many other things to see and do, too!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT KennedySpaceCenter.com



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I am going to visit Kennedy Space Center with people who care about me. Many people like to learn about missions into space. There may be many other adults and children there, too. Some of the exhibits have loud noises that start and stop. The people with me know about the crowds and the noises. They will help me have a comfortable visit.

Kennedy Space Center is a place where many people work, and other people visit. I will be visiting there soon. There's a lot to see, do, and explore!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [KennedySpaceCenter.com](https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com)

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