CROWDS, LINES, CHARACTERS AND FIREWORKS

I Am Going to Disney World

A social story to read before and during the trip

This story is about me: _____

My trip is on: _____



Magic Bean Travel Co.

Written by Bonnie Nofsinger, IBCCES Certified Autism Travel Professional and mom of two kids on the spectrum. Free to print, edit and share with families.

1



Photo idea: The park entrance or castle · glue or tape your photo here

I am going to Disney World. It is a big place with rides, shows and characters.

2



Photo idea: My headphones · glue or tape your photo here

Lots of people visit Disney World. It might be crowded and loud. I can wear my headphones.

3



Photo idea: A ride line · glue or tape your photo here

To go on a ride, we usually wait in a line. Some lines are short and some lines are long.

4



Photo idea: My fidget, game or snack · glue or tape your photo here

While I wait, I can hold my fidget, play a game, or have a snack.

5

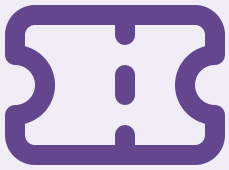


Photo idea: A ride I want to try · glue or tape your photo here

Some rides are dark, fast or loud. Before we go, we can watch a video of the ride together. I can choose to skip a ride.

6



Photo idea: A character I like · glue or tape your photo here

I might see characters like Mickey Mouse. Characters are people in costumes. Some characters do not talk, but they can wave, hug or sign my book.

7



Photo idea: Me waving or giving a high five · glue or tape your photo here

I do not have to hug a character. I can wave or give a high five.

8



Photo idea: Fireworks · glue or tape your photo here

At night there might be fireworks. Fireworks are very loud and bright. I can watch from far away, wear my headphones, or go back to the hotel before they start.

9



Photo idea: A quiet place to rest · glue or tape your photo here

When I feel tired or too full of noise, I can tell my grown-up. We will find a quiet place to rest.

10



Photo idea: Our resort bus, boat or train · glue or tape your photo here

We ride a bus, boat or train back to our hotel.

11



Photo idea: Something fun for tomorrow · glue or tape your photo here

Tomorrow we can have more fun at Disney.

The End

For grown-ups

This story is written in the first person, in a calm, matter-of-fact tone. It names the hard parts honestly and pairs each one with something that helps. Words like “might” and “usually” leave room for real-life changes.

How to use this story

Start one to three weeks before the trip.
Read it daily at first, then less often once your child knows it. Some kids get anxious hearing about a trip too far ahead. You know your child best.

Add real photos.
Glue or tape a photo over each frame. A photo of the real place beats a drawing. The icons are there if you can't get a photo.

Edit freely.
Cross out and write in your own names, ship, hotel and comfort items. A story that matches your real trip works better.

Bring it with you.
Read it again in the moment, like in the security line or while you wait for the parade. That's when it does the most good.

Before you print: Disney notes

- **Disney's Sensory Experience Details guide** goes attraction by attraction through things that can be hard for sensory kids: loud noises, darkness, getting wet, bumpy or fast movement and surprises.
- **Disney's Accessibility Planning Guide** includes tips for neurodivergent guests, like making a visual schedule and practicing waiting in line before you go. Both guides are linked from Disney's services for guests with disabilities page.
- **Watch ride videos together.** YouTube ride videos are great for step 5. Preview them yourself first.
- **Ask me about DAS.** Disney's Disability Access Service can shorten time in physical lines. I help families prepare for the DAS video chat.

Photo checklist

- [ ] 1. The park entrance or castle
- [ ] 2. My headphones
- [ ] 3. A ride line
- [ ] 4. My fidget, game or snack
- [ ] 5. A ride I want to try
- [ ] 6. A character I like
- [ ] 7. Me waving or giving a high five
- [ ] 8. Fireworks
- [ ] 9. A quiet place to rest
- [ ] 10. Our resort bus, boat or train
- [ ] 11. Something fun for tomorrow



Want help filling in your real details?

I'm Bonnie Nofsinger, a Rockford mom of two kids on the spectrum and an IBCCES Certified Autism Travel Professional. I help families plan the trip and the accommodations behind the story. Planning is free to you. **Call or text (815) 904-9755** or visit **magicbeantravel.com**.