This guide is designed to assist you and your family in identifying exhibits and experiences that meet your sensory needs. Each exhibit at the Science Center of Iowa (SCI) is color-coded to offer ratings for sound levels, visual stimulation and tactile opportunity.

See example below.

SCI offers families use of sensory-friendly toolkits available for checkout on a first come, first served basis. These backpacks include noise-reducing headphones, sunglasses, weighted blankets/stuffed animals and fidget materials.

We also encourage you to bring earplugs, sunglasses and other tools you may find useful during your visit.

These signs are displayed around the building to indicate Audio, Visual and Touch Stimuli.
• Try Visiting SCI at Low Traffic Periods
Looking for a quieter time to visit? The first hour SCI is open and after 2:00 pm typically see lighter crowds every day of the week, especially during the fall and winter. During the spring and summer, Saturdays are usually less busy until noon.

SCI also offers Sensory-Friendly Hours for families with members on the autism spectrum or children with sensory-processing disorders on the first Saturday of the month from 8:30-10:00 am, October through May.

• Prepare for Transitions
As you transition from exhibit to exhibit, there are noise and lighting changes. Some may be loud and distracting while others offer a quieter atmosphere. Take time to look over the Sensory Input Guide for each space prior to your trip and plan according to your needs. SCI also provides a photograph-based Social Story to help you make the most of your visit by walking through the experience before you arrive.

• Quiet Space
If you find the need for a quiet space, a staff member can direct you to a quiet room.

• Restrooms
Family restrooms are available on the main level directly east of the Box Office. This restroom provides changing facilities and space for multiple people to be in the same, private space.

• Food/Allergies
The Food Chain Café provides food for purchase and has a variety of healthy options including for those with food allergies and sensitivities. You also are welcome to bring your own food to SCI. Please note that food and drink are not permitted in the exhibits.
**Touch Stimulus**

Key:
- 🌈 = Low Stimulation
- 🌈 = Moderate Stimulation
- 🌈 = High Stimulation

- 🚛 = Elevator
- 🩳 = Stairs
- ⬆️ = Up Escalator
- ⬇️ = Lockers
- ♂️ = Women’s Restroom
- ♂️ = Men’s Restroom
- ♂️ = Family Restroom
- ⭐️ = Caregiver’s Corner
A-ha! Store
- Small space
- Bright lights
- Variety of textures and colors

Box Office
- Main entrance
- Bright and open
- Purchase tickets or check in with your membership card here

Brick by Brick
- Hands-on interactive exhibits
- Some exhibits involve body movement
- Earthquake table has loud, sudden movements
- Some bright lights and sounds

Commons
- Classroom for camps and birthday parties
- Noise level and sensations vary with usage
- Sensory break space for dedicated sensory hours

= Low Stimulation  = Moderate Stimulation  = High Stimulation
Food Chain Café
- Shared tables in a fairly quiet space

Founders Hall Exhibits
- Hands-on interactive exhibits
- Some components have button-activated smell, sound and light

Founders Hall Programs
- Occasionally used for live programs and demonstrations
- Noise level and sensations vary with usage
- Sometimes live animals you can touch

IMAX Theater
*Note: IMAX theater currently closed due to storm damage.*
- Documentaries and current movies shown on IMAX dome screen
- Bright, fast-moving lights and scenes

Innovation Lab
- Hands-on interactive experiences
- Bright lights
- Access to a variety of hand tools
- Computers, A/V and VR equipment
John Deere Adventure Theater
- Live programming varies based on usage
- Some shows involve bright and fast-moving lights and sounds

Makers Studio
- Hands-on interactive exhibits
- Hand tools accessible
- Videos, initiated by button, can be startling and loud

Small Discoveries
- Some bright lights and sounds
- Some exhibits involve moving your body to activate
- Bubble exhibit with open tank of solution (may get wet)
Audio Stimulus

Upper Level:
- Star Theater
- Why The Sky?
- When Things Get Moving
- What On Earth?
- Demonstration Garden

Visual Stimulus

Upper Level:
- Star Theater
- Why The Sky?
- When Things Get Moving
- What On Earth?
- Demonstration Garden

Touch Stimulus Map on next page
What On Earth?
- Terrariums of live snakes and animals
- Live broadcast of weather forecast (Monday through Friday at noon, weather-permitting) in the WHO-HD Channel 13 Weather Studio

When Things Get Moving
- Hands-on interactive exhibits and water table (may get wet)
- Some exhibits have loud sounds and sudden noises
- Bright lights
- Rocket launch produces sudden sound

Why the Sky?
- Hands-on interactive exhibits
- Some exhibits have loud, sudden noises
- Lighting is low throughout

Star Theater Planetarium
- Dark dome theater
- Night sky and high-resolution documentaries
SENSORY-FRIENDLY HOURS
First Saturday of the Month
8:30-10:00 am  I  October through May

WWW.SCIOWA.ORG/SENSORYHOURS

Questions? Contact us at 515-274-6868 or email info@sciowa.org