



A Visual Story
to support
your
'Junior Zoo
Academy'
course

**WHIPSNADE
ZOO**

a ZSL conservation zoo





Booking a ticket

The 'Junior Zoo Academy' experience is ONLY available to ticket holders. It is not included in your Zoo entrance ticket.

The 'Junior Zoo Academy' experience can be booked online on the Whipsnade Zoo website.

You can book the 'Junior Zoo Academy' course here:
[Junior Zoo Academy \(8-10 year-olds\) | Whipsnade Zoo](#)

Suitable Clothing



- Some parts of the course will take place outside in the zoo.
- I need to make sure I wear suitable clothes for being outside. This might be a sunhat and t-shirt or raincoat and jumper.
- I need to make sure I wear closed-toe shoes, like trainers or wellington boots, to make sure I stay safe.



Arriving for my course



- At 10:15 I will wait close to the zoo entrance at the colourful 'ZSL Patrons' wall, just to the left of the main zoo entrance.
- The course does not start until 10:15am. Sometimes zoo staff might not arrive exactly at 10:15am. If they arrive a little bit early or late, this is OK as I will still get to take part in the 'Zoo Explorers' course.
- There might be lots of people around in the area where I have to wait but this is OK. If I don't like this, there is lots of space so I can move away where there are fewer people.



A map of the zoo can be downloaded here:

[Map | Whipsnade Zoo](#)

Starting my course

- A member of zoo staff and a zoo volunteer will come to the 'ZSL Patrons' wall and meet me there.
- There are a maximum of 10 children who can take part in a 'Zoo Explorers' course so there will be others joining me for the day.
- The zoo staff and volunteer will ask my adult to sign my name in for the day and I will listen to instructions before going into the zoo.



Zoo staff will be wearing a green uniform and zoo volunteers will be wearing a red uniform. Here is a picture of a Whipsnade Zoo staff member.

Walking to the Rainforest Room



- As I head into the zoo, I will follow the zoo staff to the Rainforest Room.
- I must listen to all instructions given by zoo staff and volunteers and take care at the zebra crossing.



Rainforest Room



- When I am inside the Rainforest Room, I will be asked find a seat and the zoo staff will tell me what we are doing next.
- I must not touch anything on the benches unless I am told to by zoo staff or volunteers.
- In this room, I will be getting to know other people on the course and learning all about habitats.
- I can wash my hands in this building and use the toilet whenever I need to.



Day Two



Inside the Aquarium

- The first activity out in the zoo will be in the aquarium.
- I need to be quiet and sensible in the aquarium as the corridors are quite narrow and there might be other zoo visitors around.
- There is a lighting change in the aquarium where it is a little bit darker than normal. There will also be a video with sound playing in one part of the aquarium. I can move away from this video at any time.
- I need to stay with my group and listen to the staff for any instructions.
- There will be one task to complete in the aquarium before moving into the butterfly house. I must not leave the aquarium or enter the butterfly house unless I am told to do so.



Inside the ButterflyHouse



- Next, I will move into the butterfly house. There is sliding door and a curtain of black ropes to move apart in order to enter the butterfly.
- There is a temperature change in the butterfly house, and it is very humid and warm. If I feel too hot or uncomfortable, I can ask to leave at any time.
- I must be quiet and sensible in the butterfly house, respect other visitor, not touch the butterflies and not bang on the glass of any of the tanks.
- There are butterflies that fly around freely and may fly near me. The butterflies rarely land or rest on people and there are areas where I can move away. I will be in the butterfly house for around 15-20 minutes.
- There are two activities to complete in this area so I must listen carefully to instructions.



Feeding the Penguins



- After lunch, my next activity in the zoo will be feeding the penguins.
- I will be allowed in a 'Staff Only' area where I must be aware of other staff and vehicles.
- Before I touch the fish, I must wear gloves to keep the penguins and I safe.
- If I would like to, I can put some vitamin tablets into the fish for the penguins.
- Touching the fish can feel slimy and cold and a little bit smelly.
- I do not have to touch the fish and can move away if I do not like the smell.
- Once all the tablets are in the fish, I will walk with the group to feed the penguins.
- I will be given fish to throw over the barriers for the penguins, making sure the fish go in the water.
- Afterwards, I can help clean the viewing windows.



Zoo Trail



- In the afternoon, I will be out in the zoo visiting and learning about lots of different animals.
- I will be walking a lot but I can take my water bottle with me and there will be time to stop and rest if I need to.
- I must stay with my group and zoo staff at all times and listen to any instructions.
- After I have completed the zoo trail, it will be time to go home. I will be dropped back with my adult at the entrance of the zoo where I started the day.



Day Two

On the Farm



- In the morning, I will visit 'Hullabazoo Farm.'
- I will be helping in one of the goat paddocks by cleaning up after the goats.
- There might be other visitors in the paddock which is OK. I will stay with the people on my course and the zoo staff.
- I might get a bit dirty whilst cleaning but I will be able to wash my hands afterwards.
- The goats might come up to me, but they are all very friendly and I can move away if I need to. If I want to, I can gently pet them, and I might be able to feed them too.



Invertebrate Room



- The invertebrate room is a special room that is not open to the general public. It is quite a small room which houses lots of baby animals.
- I must be quiet at all times, and not touch any of the tanks.
- It is a little warm in this room and sometimes a humidifier will provide some mist for the animals which I do not need to worry about. It only makes a small noise, and the water goes into the enclosures so I will not get wet.
- The zoo staff might bring one of the animals out to meet me. I will not touch this animal but can have a closer look if I want to.



Visiting the Lemurs



- I will be making some food enrichment which will involve hiding food in different items to help the lemurs show their natural feeding behaviour.
- I will be allowed to enter through a gate onto the grass bank of their enclosure. I will sit on a bench and watch the lemurs enjoy their food enrichment.
- I must listen very carefully to all safety instructions as I will be in the same space as the lemurs.
- I do not need to be scared of the lemurs. They are very used to people putting enrichment in their enclosure. They will be more interested in the food than me.
- If I feel nervous, I can watch from behind the fence on the main pathway.



Graduation

- At the end of the course, I will be given a certificate and t-shirt for completing Junior Zoo Academy.
- The zoo staff will then take me back to the zoo entrance to meet my adult.
- Once my adult has signed me out of the course, I can go back into the zoo if I would like to.

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This is to certify that

has completed Junior Zoo Academy
Whipsnade Zoo

Signed
Date





Thank you for
taking part in
Junior Zoo
Academy!

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Come and see us again for Zoo Academy!

[Zoo Academy \(15-17 year-olds\) |
Whipsnade Zoo](#)

