My Visit to the Vancouver Aquarium
1. Getting to the Aquarium

You can get to the Vancouver Aquarium by car, by bus or by walking. If we park in the car park, I will have to wait while my parent or guardian gets a ticket at the parking machine.

The no. 19 bus brings me to Stanley Park. I can follow the signs from the bus stop to get to the Aquarium.

I can also get to the Aquarium by walking along the seawall.
2. At the Entrance

When I arrive at the Aquarium I will see a big whale statue. It might be very busy, so it's very important that I stay with my group or family.

Before I go inside, I will have to buy a ticket. There might be lots of people and I might need to wait in line.
3. At the Entrance

After I buy a ticket, the staff will stamp my hand. It won't hurt and I will have a cool fish stamp on my hand. I can also ask the person at the ticket window for a map of the aquarium to help me find my way around.
4. Photo Booth Experience

As I go inside the Aquarium, a photographer will ask to make my photo for a souvenir. If I don’t want a photo, I can tell the photographer “no thank you.”
5. Follow the Rules

When I'm at the Aquarium, I need to follow some rules:

✓ Stay with my family or group.
✓ Let my parent or guardian know when I need to go to the bathroom or take a break.
✓ Take turns in front of exhibits so other people can look at the animals too.
✓ Listen to Aquarium staff and volunteers at all times.
✓ Keep my hands on my side of the glass or barrier.
✓ I will walk and not run.
✓ Some animals can get scared from loud noises or fast movements, so I will remember not to shout, and not to tap the glass.
6. Staff and Volunteers

I can talk to a staff member or a volunteer if I have any questions. The staff wear red shirts or coats and the volunteers wear blue shirts or coats.

If I get lost, I can find a staff member or a volunteer and tell them that I can’t find my parents or my group. A staff member will walk with me to help me find them.
7. Taking a Break

If I need to go to a quiet place, I will have to tell my parent or guardian. We can go to one of the Quiet Rooms or visit the Underwater Wild Coast gallery or the Underwater Arctic gallery. These galleries are much quieter than the others.

I can also ask at the Guest Services desk to borrow a pair of earmuffs to make things quieter while I visit. I will need to ask my parent or guardian to help me sign them out.

Some galleries can get smelly at times. If it gets too much, I can go outside into the fresh air and look at the animals there.
8. Finding Out About the Shows

There are shows on at the Aquarium every day. There are signs in the Aquarium that display when and where the shows are on. These are called showboards and this is what they look like:

The shows and times will be different each day.
9. Going into the Galleries

I can go to any gallery I want when I visit. There is no order that I have to follow so I can decide where to go and I can ask any staff member for a map to help me explore.
The first gallery I see when I arrive is the Teck Connections Gallery. This room is easy to find because there is a big upside-down globe in the middle.
11. Graham Amazon Gallery

The Amazon Gallery is a warm and humid gallery, filled with plants and animals.

In this gallery I can see birds flying all around me. Sometimes the birds can be very loud, they are just saying hello. Sometimes the gallery can be a little smelly.

There is only one way to walk in the gallery so I will be sure to follow the route and not go backwards. I have to remember to keep my hands to myself and try not to touch any animals, even if they touch me.
In the Tropics Gallery I can see animals from the warmer waters of the planet. The gallery is a little bit dark and can get crowded, so I will make sure it's comfortable to go in. If it's too busy, I can come back later.
In the Pacific Canada Gallery I can see lots of animals that live in the Pacific Ocean. There is one habitat that has an open top, so I’ll make sure to keep my hands and camera and everything else on my side of the glass.

There’s also a touchscreen where I can control the jellyfish lights!
The Treasures of the BC Coast gallery is where I can see lots of fish that are on BC's coastlines. This gallery winds a bit like an S shape.

Sometimes this gallery gets a little crowded so I will be sure to look inside before I go. If it is too busy, I can always go outside and around to skip the gallery.
In the Canaccord gallery I can learn all about the scientific research that the Vancouver Aquarium is doing to help the oceans. There is a 4-D Theatre in this gallery, it is a bit darker and can get really busy, especially right after a 4-D movie.

If I am under 8 years of age, I can play in Clownfish Cove.
16. Clownfish Cove

At Clownfish Cove I can play with lots of toys, read stories or pretend to be a vet or a ship’s captain. It might be busy and sometimes it can be noisy. I will need to share the toys and materials with others.
17. 4-D Movie

The 4-D movie is shown in a theatre similar to a regular theatre. Except this theatre has different effects depending on the movie, like bubbles, snow, shaking seats, loud noises and flashing lights.

I have to make sure I get to the theatre at least five minutes before it starts. I might have to wait in line for a little bit, but I can learn science facts from the TV screens while I wait!

For the 4-D movie, I will get a special pair of 3-D glasses to wear. I have to make sure I'm careful with them so they don't break.

If it gets to be too much I can always leave out the back door. I will tell my parent so they can come with me.
Stellers’ Bay is where the Steller sea lions can be found. The sea lions might make a lot of noise – they are just saying hello. I have to remember to keep my hands on my side of the glass.

Every day there is a Steller Sea Lion show, the trainers tell you all about the sea lions. If I sit in the front row, there’s a chance I might get splashed.
19. Underwater Arctic Gallery

I can take some stairs from Stellers’ Bay to go to the underwater gallery. There's a really cool narwhal model hanging from the roof of the staircase.

In the gallery I can watch the sea lions swimming under water, or learn about the animals that live in the Arctic like cod and char. It is usually pretty quiet in this gallery, so sometimes it is a good place to go to get away from the noise.
20. Outside: Penguin Point

At Penguin Point I can see South African penguins. These penguins don't come from Antarctica so they like rocky beaches better than icy ones.

I can also read lots of facts about other penguins in the world!
At the Wild Coast I can see a Pacific white-sided dolphin, seals and more sea lions. The sea lions can get really noisy but that's okay! It's how sea lions like to talk.

This area is really big and I have to remember to keep my hands on my side of the barriers!
The sea otters are really cute! I can look at them above and below the water and take pictures. I have to remember to keep on my side of the barrier and keep my camera on my side of the glass.
Near the sea otters is a touch pool where I can touch sea anemones and sea stars. I have to use only my pinky finger to touch them and be very gentle.

Sometimes the animals will get tired of being touched and need a break. So it’s important that I listen to any staff if they tell me I can’t touch an animal.
24. Frogs Forever? Gallery

Downstairs I can see frogs and other amphibians! They can get very noisy, but that’s okay. I can even go inside a bubble underneath the firebelly toads.
Here I can watch the dolphin swim underwater! There aren't usually a lot of people in this gallery, and it is usually quiet, so I can go to this gallery if I need to take a break.
The downstairs Teck Engagement gallery is where I can watch some special shows. I will have to look at the showboards to see if anything is on today. Some shows can get quite busy so I must make sure to go early if I need a seat.
27. Visiting the Café

The Aquarium has a café where you can buy snacks, meals, hot drinks and get water. Sometimes there is a long line and I might have to wait for my food. While I wait in line, I can look at the menu on the screens and decide what I would like to order. Sometimes I might eat the food I brought from home instead of buying something at the café.
28. Time to Go Home!

When I want to leave the Aquarium, I will have to go through the Gift Shop. I will have to ask my parents if I can look at or buy any of the stuff there. If I can't buy anything today, that's okay! I can ask my parents and come back another day.

When I get out of the Gift Shop I will be right in front of the whale statue where I started!