

_____ 's visit to Life



I am going to LifeLab in Life Science Centre!

Life Science Centre is a place where I can find out about science and have some fun.

School groups can take part in workshops or story-telling sessions in the science centre, or in real life labs on the upper floor.

I am going to do a workshop called Destination Space.

Life Science Centre is in Newcastle.

I will travel there with my group.

My teacher will be able to tell me whether we will use the train, bus, car or walk.



When my group arrive at Life Science Centre, I will see a friendly member of staff in a **dark blue top** at the reception desk or just outside the building. They will give my teacher a schedule of what we will be doing during our visit.

Some of the team at Life may wear a face covering or visor during my visit, to keep everyone safe. It is up to me if I want to wear a face covering or not.

There will be hand sanitiser near the entrance, which I can use if I want to.



Sensory Key



The hand sanitiser can be quite sticky on my hands as I rub it in.



The sanitiser might have a strong smell.

Things might happen at a different time to a normal school day – for example, lunch might be a bit earlier or later than usual. **If I want to know what will happen next I can ask my teacher.**

There will be space in the centre for our group to have our packed lunches together. There might be noises from other people in the centre.

My group will be given a metal crate on wheels where I can put my bag and coat to keep them safe.

The crate will be locked and my teacher will have the key to open it if I need anything.



Sensory Key



I might hear noises from other people in the centre. **Ear defenders are available from reception if I want them.**

If I need the toilet while I'm at Life, I can look for the signs around the centre to see where they are. **I must tell an adult before I go.**

There is an accessible, changing places toilet opposite the reception desk. There are also toilets and disabled access toilets next to Life Cafe on the ground floor, and next to the Hello World area on the upper floor.

There are toilets in Lifelab too. A member of the Life Team can show me where these are.



Toilets near Life Cafe, ground floor



Toilets near Hello World, upper floor



Toilets in LifeLab, upper floor

A member of the Life Team will take my group to our first activity.

I might hear a voice when I can't see the person speaking!

This is probably coming from the Life team's radio. This works like a walkie-talkie so that staff can talk to each other all over the building.

They will switch this off during my workshop, but they might use it before or after to help get my class to the right place.



Sensory Key



I might hear unexpected noises from the Life team's radio. **Ear defenders are available from reception if I want them.**

I am going to Lab 2 in LifeLab for a Destination Space workshop.

To get to LifeLab, I will walk through the science centre with my group, and go up to the upper floor using the stairs or lift. (I can see the science centre visual story [here](#)).

Upstairs, we will walk past Play Zone, and down a corridor that has a yellow zig-zag line along the wall to the Life Lab doors.



Through these doors, I will see a picture of an astronaut on the wall, and a corridor that is decorated with brightly coloured circles with science related jobs written inside.

We will go up a flight of stairs past more of the coloured circles on the wall.

If I can't use the stairs easily, I can use the LifeLab lift which is in Lab 1. The lift is a platform and a member of the team will show me how it works.



At the top of the stairs there is a hallway that leads to Lab 2 and Lab 3. The walls are brightly painted in green, orange and blue. There is a fish tank which makes a low buzzing sound.

There is another set of stairs leading up to some offices, but I don't need to go up there.



Before we go inside Lab 2, a member of the team will tell us about the experiments we will do, and how to keep safe.

I might need to wear a lab coat and safety goggles for protection. A member of the team will tell me if I need to wear them. If I wear glasses, there are some safety goggles that can go over the top of my normal glasses.



I am ready for the Destination Space Workshop!

The workshop will be lead by a friendly Science Explainer.

When I walk into Lab 2, there will be robot arms and models on the tables. The Explainer will show my group what to do for each experiment and how to use the equipment safely.

I will work with other people in my group and share equipment with them.

In this workshop, we will carry out tasks similar to those that astronauts would do in the International Space Station.

There will be lots of adults in the room, so if I get stuck with anything I can just ask. **I don't have to do an experiment if I don't want to.**

If I am worried about any of the sensory parts of the workshop my teacher can contact Life before our visit and talk to them about the best thing to help me. I can also tell the explainer leading the workshop.

Sensory Key



Sound: electronic sounds of equipment, one loud bang.
Ear defenders are available if I want to use them.



Sight: bright ceiling lights, projector screen, video footage, infrared camera pictures.



Smell: fresh and dried fruit, matches and splint.



Touch: a range of gloves made from different materials.



Taste: fresh and dried fruit.

We will use robot arms which make an electronic whirring sound as they move, sometimes if they are moved too far they make a loud clicking sound – the explainer will show us this before we use them.



Sensory Key



The robot arms make electronic whirring and clicking sounds. **Ear defenders are available from reception if I want them.**

There is some fresh and dried fruit to taste in this workshop. I can decide if I want to taste any of them.

There will be a range of gloves made from different materials that I can touch and try on if I want to.

Sensory Key



The fresh and dried fruit might have strong smells.

One of the glove materials might smell unusual smell.



The fresh and dried fruit might have strong tastes.



The gloves will have different textures to feel. Some will feel soft and smooth, some will feel squishy, and some will feel fluffy.

I don't have to smell, taste or touch anything if I don't want to.



We will work in groups to do an experiment with a clean nappy and some water. The water will be labelled as urine and the Explainer will pretend it is wee, but it's not real!

We will use special equipment to add water to the nappy so we don't touch the nappy or the chemicals inside it with our hands.



At the end of the workshop there is a rocket launch. The rocket is small but it makes a **very loud bang**. The Explainer will warn us about the noise beforehand.

If I don't like loud noises I can borrow some ear defenders (or wear my own), or I can stand outside the room. I will still hear the bang from outside the room, but it will not be as loud. If I want, I can leave the lab with an adult and go to the science centre where I won't hear the bang at all.



Sensory Key



The rocket launch will make a very loud bang, and people in my group might clap and cheer.

Ear defenders are available from reception.

Ending the workshop

When the workshop has finished, we will leave through the door we came in.

Depending on our schedule, we might have some time left to explore the centre, or it might be time for us to leave!

If I want to know what will happen next I can ask my teacher.

Enjoy your visit!



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