



I am ready to watch the
Birmingham Barons
play baseball!

Here are some important
things for me and my
family to know

(this social story was prepared by the
UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics)

Here is a map of the baseball park:



There will be a
lot of people at the game
who are there to have fun.

Some of the people at the
game are helpers for me and
my family. They will have a
nametag on that says
"Need Help?"
and may have on a shirt that
says something about autism.

Sometimes people
cheer or yell loudly
when something good
happens during the game. They
may cheer or yell just because
they are having fun.

There are a lot of **noises** during a baseball game, but the people working for the Barons will try to keep it more quiet than usual.

I can also ask for **ear plugs** from one of the helpers from the Autism Society.

Some of the sounds at a baseball game include:

- ◆ People cheering and clapping
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Silly sounds

If my family
pre-ordered tickets
to the game we should
enter the stadium at the
Parkside Entrance
to pick them up. I can
find this place on the
MAP
on page 2 of this book.
We may have to wait a
few minutes in line to pick
up the tickets.

Many people come to the game before it starts so they can find their seats and enjoy some activities. My seat number will be on my ticket, and I can sit in this seat any time before or during the game. It is also ok to walk around the stadium, sit in the grass, or go to the play area during the game. My seat will still be my seat even if I leave for a little while!

We can pick up our tickets at 3:00 pm or anytime after 3:00 pm. The game should start around 4:00 pm. Before the game starts, there will be some announcements and special people on the field throwing the first pitch. I may see someone I know on the field! There is a lot of music that plays before the game too.

If I need a BREAK,
my family can help me
find a special white tent
to go to so I can
"chill out" or calm down.

This will be a quieter
place where I cannot see
the game but will be safe
to stay for a little while
before going back to the
game.

The white tent
will have some water,
and my family and I can
ask a staff member or
helper with a "Need
Help?" nametag for help
finding the tent.

There are some fun
places to play in the
stadium too.

My family will decide if
we can play during the
game, and I should stay
with them at all times.

I can learn more about
the Chill Out area and
other places at the game
on the

MAP

on page 2 of this book.

The Barons have several special events happening on April 14th:

1. **Autism Friendly Day**- Regions Field will have an accepting Autism Friendly environment for fans with Autism to enjoy the game.
2. **Baseball Giveaway**- The first 500 kids in attendance at the game may receive a baseball.
3. **Jackie Robinson Day**- Celebration of the 72nd Anniversary of Jackie Robinson's Major League Baseball debut.

After the game is over, I might be able to run around the bases on the field! My family and I should listen for the announcer to say when this can happen.

There are so many things
to do at the game,
but I might not have time
to do everything. I can
ask my family which
things we will be able to
see and do before or
during the game.

The stadium is very big,
and there are a lot of
other people at the game.

It might be crowded and there could be lines for my favorite foods or activities. My family and I can use the **MAP** to pick which places to go and which way will be the easiest to get there so I don't have to walk through the crowd or wait too long in line.

Sometimes the weather is great for baseball games, but sometimes it may rain. The teams may keep playing in the rain, and if I want to watch them play I may get wet.

Sometimes the announcers tell the crowd that there is a **rain delay**. This means that the game stops and the players and fans find somewhere dry to wait until the rain stops and the announcers say the game is starting again.

During a rain delay, I might wait inside the area near the food or in the cool down area.

I can use the **MAP** to find somewhere to wait. There will be a lot of other people waiting nearby and it may be loud and warm. The rain delay can last for up to 30 minutes before a decision is made about playing again, but sometimes the delay is even longer. My family can talk about how long we want to wait to see the game. Sometimes the teams decide to cancel the game, and everyone leaves the stadium. If that happens, my family can talk about coming to another game on another day.



The Barons have a mascot named **"Babe Ruff,"** which looks like a dog. The mascot will be standing in a special place near some of the places to buy food. It is my choice if I want to see Babe Ruff. I can go see him, wave at him, take a picture with him, or give him a high five, but I don't have to. I can find where Babe Ruff will be on my **MAP**, but sometimes he might have to take a break.

Most baseball games last between 2 and 3 hours. Each team takes 9 turns hitting the ball and 9 turns catching the ball. A team's turn is over after 3 outs. I can listen to the announcer and look at the score board to know which inning it is, how many outs there are, and what the score is. Sometimes there are more than 9 innings if the score is tied and the teams get more turns to play.

My family can decide how long we want to stay and watch the game. Some people like to stay the whole time and some like to leave early.

When the players are taking a break there may be special videos or games on the screen above the scoreboard.

There may be people dancing or tossing T-shirts into the crowd. There aren't enough T-shirts for everyone.

I can watch the videos and play the games on the screen no matter where I am in the stadium.

Sometimes a player hits a
ball that comes
into the stands.

My family and I should
pay attention to where the
ball is and **watch out** if
someone says
"heads up!"

Sometimes a lucky person
catches a ball in the stands.
If this happens they can
keep the ball!

There is a lot to do and see
at the Barons game. I hope
it will be a good day for me
and my family!

Information for parents:

- If you registered for free tickets, please enter through the Parkside Gates on 1st Avenue South across from Railroad Park. This gate is to the left of the stadium if you are facing the field. **Gates open at 3 pm.** The free and \$5 tickets are in sections 101 and 102, which is near one of the grassy areas and the play areas. There is a lot of open space behind these sections if you need room to walk around.
- There are 20 organizations participating in this event, and you can find volunteers wearing a "Need Help?" nametag and/or a shirt or tag from one of the sponsoring organizations. Let us know how to help you enjoy this special event!
- "Break" tents are located to the right of the play area behind the scoreboard. Professionals familiar with ASD will be on hand to assist and direct you to these areas if needed. Barons staff will also be in this area, so just let them know that your child/family needs a break. If you need to leave the stadium for your child/family to have a break, please let a Regions Field staff member know.
- There are 2 play areas inside Regions Field. One area has a slide/climbing area (this is free) and bouncy houses (children can jump as many times as they wish with a wristband available for **\$5** at a table outside the play area; cash or credit card accepted). There will be Barons staff as well as ASD professionals around this area to monitor play and assist as needed. There is also a Sport Zone area where children can play wiffle ball for free. This area closes **at the top of the 6th inning.**
- The Barons have invited fans to "run the bases" after the game, and you and your family are invited to join in this activity. Runners will meet at the first base side of the field for this activity.

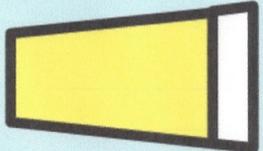


The Birmingham Barons have been wonderful partners for this event and along with the collaborating agencies, we welcome you to the game! Please send us a note after the game if you can think of ways to improve the experience next year!

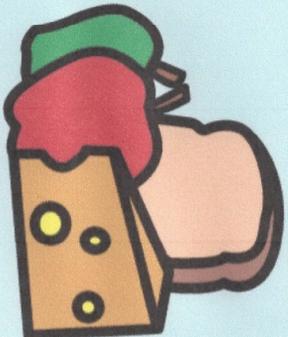
Email bamah@autism-alabama.org with comments.



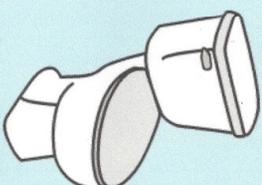
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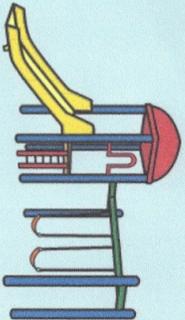
drink



food



bathroom



playground



Babe Ruff



home