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**Suggested Visual Guide Template**

**Restaurant**

This is a suggested step-by-step guide to structuring your Visual Guide for autistic customers.

Having this guide will help autistic customers feel more confident and prepared when visiting your restaurant.

This is one possible format for images and information you can include.

Ideally, offer the Visual Guide in both digital and printed formats. A digital copy will be uploaded to the AFB website in the resources folder

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**1. Cover Page**

Image: A welcoming photo of your restaurant's exterior, showing the entrance and any signage.

Text Example: “Visiting [Restaurant Name] This guide will help you know what to do and what to expect when you visit our restaurant.”

**2. Arriving at the Restaurant**

Image: The entrance or parking area.

Text: Include information on any relevant parking areas or suggested locations to park.

**3. Entering the Restaurant**

Image: A photo of the entrance area.

Example text: “You will go through the doors into the restaurant. The doors are automatic and will make a sound when they open. You will see people eating and talking.”

**4. Greeting the Staff**

Image: Smiling staff member or host in uniforms or name tags.

Example text: “When You come inside, you will see a staff member at the front desk. They will greet you and ask if you have a reservation or need a table.” Include the option to ask for a quieter area if possible.

**5. Being Seated**

Image: A staff member directing to a table.

Text: “The staff member will show you to your table. You can sit down and make yourself comfortable.”

**6. Looking at the Menu**

Image: A photo of the menu or a person holding one.

Example Text: “You can look at the menu to choose what you want to eat or drink If you need help, you can ask the staff”

**7. Ordering Food**

Image: A staff member taking an order or a person pointing at the menu.

Text: “When You are ready, you can tell the staff member what you want to eat and drink. If you ask if they can accommodate you with particular requirements [allergies, intolerances, preferences]

**8. Waiting for the Food**

Image: A dining table with utensils, or a customer waiting.

Text: “After You order, you will wait for your food. This might take some time. You can talk, use a device, use a sensory fidget, or look around while you wait.”

**9. Eating the Food**

Image: A customer eating or a plate of food on the table.

Text: “When your food arrives, you can take your time and enjoy your meal. If You need something like tissues or sauces, you can ask the staff. You can use your preferred method of communication and our staff will do their best to help you.””

**10. Sensory Information**

Image: Symbols for noise, smells, or lighting

Text: “The restaurant might be noisy with people talking or music playing. It might smell like food. If You feel overwhelmed, you can ask for help.” Mention if you have a sensory kit available to borrow if needed.

**11. Paying for the Meal**

Image: A bill or a staff member holding a payment machine.

Text: “When you are done eating, you can ask for your bill and pay for your meal. You can pay with cash, a card, or [other payment options].”

**12. Leaving the Restaurant**

Image: The restaurant entrance/exit from inside, showing the way out.

Text: “After you pay, you can leave the restaurant through the same doors you came in.”

**Additional Information to Include**

Add information about location of customer toilets

Quiet Times: Mention any specific hours when the restaurant is less busy or quieter.

Special Accommodations: Highlight any sensory-friendly options, such as quiet areas or menu adjustments.

Contact Information: Provide a phone number or email for questions or to request accommodations.