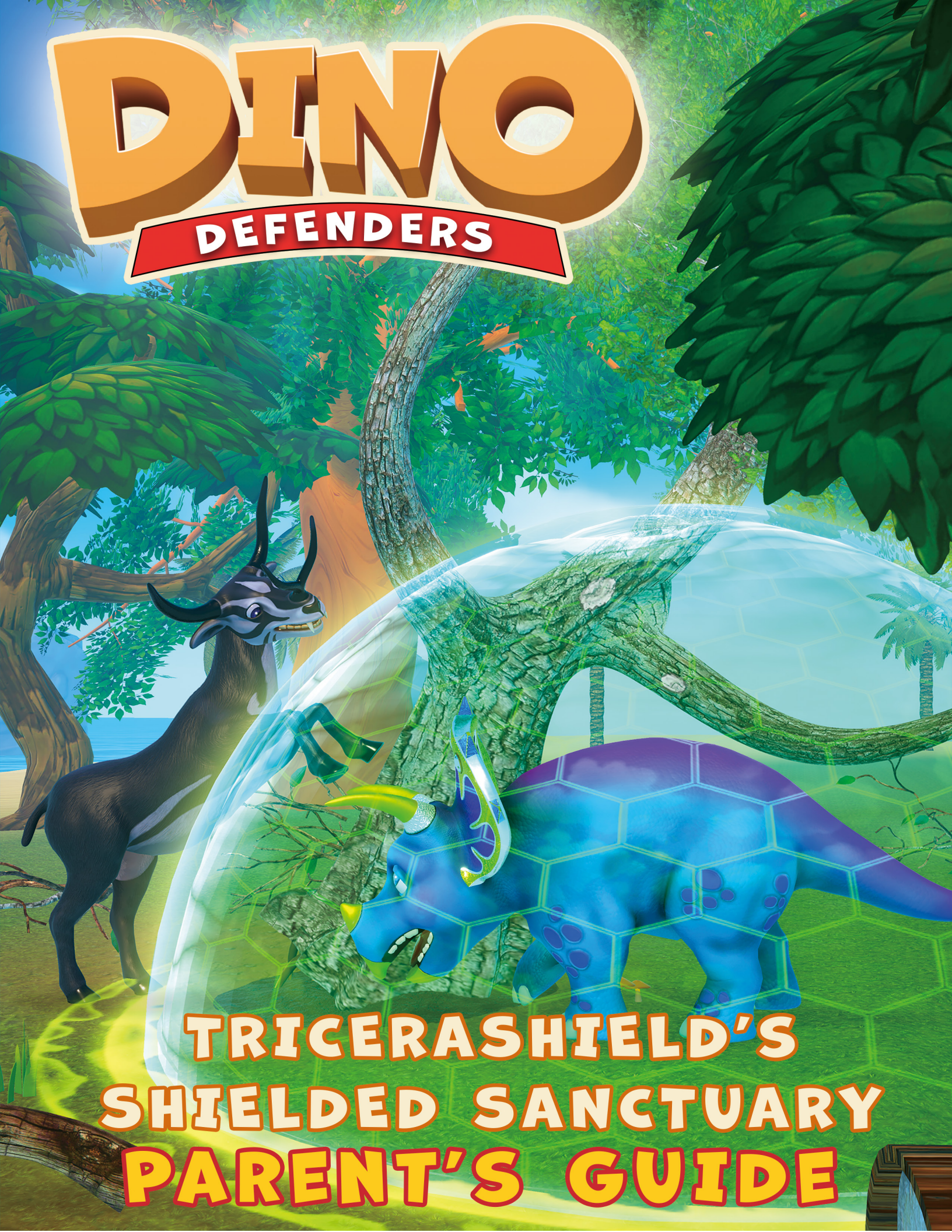

DINO
DEFENDERS
TRICERASHIELD'S
SHIELDED SANCTUARY
PARENT'S GUIDE

TriceraShield's Shielded Sanctuary

A Parent's Discussion & Curiosity Guide



A Note for Grown-Ups

A visit to Guardian Grove begins with towering trees, little creatures, and an invitation to ask questions. When the group discovers DarkHorn damaging a tree, TriceraShield protects it and explains why the grove matters. TriceraShield's Shielded Sanctuary gives families a way to explore curiosity, caring for nature, and the connections that help us feel supported. Even DarkHorn begins to see the forest differently as he listens.

Read for enjoyment first, then choose a few questions or an activity that interests your child. They can answer with words, drawings, or a detail they point to in the pictures. You don't need to know every answer about nature. "I wonder about that, too" is a welcome beginning. Leave room for your child's own questions and return to the guide whenever you like.

Meet Our Crew

Look for these four characters as you read. Each notices or responds to something different in Guardian Grove.



TriceraShield the Triceratops

TriceraShield welcomes the young dinosaurs to Guardian Grove and encourages them to explore. He introduces the ancient Elder trees, follows the footprints with the group, and shields a tree from DarkHorn. As their guide and protector, he helps the visitors understand why this place deserves care.

Fun detail: *His glowing shield protects the tree, while his explanations help the young dinosaurs understand it. Find a picture that shows each kind of help.*



Annie the Ankylosaurus

Annie draws attention to the grove's tall, strong trees. Later, she recognizes DarkHorn and notices the thick roots beneath the trees. Her comparison of the connected roots to holding hands gives the group a familiar way to think about the forest.

Fun detail: *Annie looks both up at the tall trees and down at their roots. Try looking at the same picture in those two ways. What catches your eye?*



Queso the Quetzalcoatlus

Queso spots big footprints and swoops down to share his discovery. He wonders where the tracks lead, then joins the others in learning about the grove. When they discuss the connected roots, he compares the forest to one big family.

Fun detail: *Queso hops from one footprint to the next. By the end, he is grinning about how much fun learning can be. Which discovery would you want to share?*



DarkHorn

DarkHorn pushes against a tree and knocks branches down. At first, he dismisses the trees and plants. Later, he listens nearby, asks about the forest working together, and begins to see it differently. He walks away while the group continues exploring.

Parent note: *The story shows a beginning change in his thinking. It doesn't show an apology or a repair. You can invite your child to imagine a caring next choice for him.*

Curiosity: Looking Closely and Asking Questions

TriceraShield invites the young dinosaurs to explore before trouble appears. Annie notices the trees, Queso spots the footprints, and the visitors want to learn more. Their questions turn a walk through the grove into a shared discovery. At home, curiosity can begin with one small thing your child notices.

For Grown-Ups: Make Room for Wonder

Pause on a picture and ask, "What do you notice?" Give your child time to point or speak before adding your own idea. Follow with "What do you wonder?" A squirrel on a branch, a pattern in the bark, or a trail of footprints can all start a conversation.

Help separate an observation from a guess: "I see big footprints" tells what is visible; "I think someone large made them" offers an idea. Enjoy checking guesses against the next page. If a question remains unanswered, write it down to explore together another day. Learning can include being unsure.

- *What would you want to ask TriceraShield when you first enter Guardian Grove?*
- *What do you notice about the Elder trees? What does TriceraShield tell the group about them?*
- *When Queso finds the footprints, what do you think the group will discover?*
- *What is something nearby that you would like to look at more closely?*

The Hardest Moment: Protecting What Matters

DarkHorn sees little value in the trees he is damaging. TriceraShield responds firmly, then puts a glowing shield around the tree. He also helps the young dinosaurs understand the grove. Look at these moments together and talk about how caring can include both setting a limit and explaining why something matters.

The group finds DarkHorn pushing against a tree and knocking branches down.	› *Who or what might be affected by what he is doing?*
TriceraShield says Guardian Grove is a place of peace and life.	› *What is he asking DarkHorn to understand about this place?*
A glowing barrier appears around the tree.	› *How does TriceraShield use his power to protect it?*
The young dinosaurs feel the shield's warmth and strength.	› *What might help them feel ready to keep learning?*

"Knowledge helps us protect what we love, just like my shield."

— TriceraShield

For Grown-Ups: Turn Understanding into Care

Connect TriceraShield's words to a small, familiar action. Learning that a favorite plant needs gentle handling can help a child choose to look without pulling its leaves. Ask, "What have we noticed, and how can we be careful with it?" Let your child suggest an action you can do together.

TriceraShield can use a magical shield; children can turn to trusted grown-ups when something is being damaged or someone feels unsafe. Practice "Please stop" and "I need help." A child can care about a place without having to confront someone or change that person's mind on their own.

Connected Roots and a New Point of View

Annie describes the roots as if they are holding hands. TriceraShield compares their connection to the group, and Queso thinks of a family. Their conversation gives DarkHorn something to consider. He listens, asks a question, and starts seeing the forest differently, even though he doesn't want to admit it.

For Grown-Ups: Notice Support and Leave Room to Learn

Use the story's holding-hands comparison to talk about people who help your child. Family members, friends, teachers, and other trusted grown-ups can offer different kinds of support. Ask for a specific example: "Who helps when something is hard?" Then name a way your child contributes, such as making room for someone in a game.

DarkHorn's question offers a chance to discuss changing our minds. Share a small example of something you once misunderstood and what helped you learn. You can welcome a new understanding while still expecting caring behavior. Invite your child to imagine what DarkHorn could do next to show respect for the grove.

- *Why does Annie say the roots look like they are holding hands?*
- *Who helps you feel supported, and what do they do that helps?*
- *What is different about DarkHorn's response near the end? What caring action could he choose next?*

Feelings Check-In

Choose a face, make an expression, or use another feeling word. More than one answer can fit. Look at the words and pictures for clues, and let your child explain their own response.

😊 **HAPPY** 😕 **WORRIED** 😡 **FRUSTRATED** 😮 **SURPRISED** 😌 **CALM**

- *How might the young dinosaurs feel when TriceraShield welcomes them to the grove?*
- *How might Queso feel when he spots the big footprints?*
- *How might Annie feel when she sees DarkHorn damaging the tree?*
- *How might the young dinosaurs feel inside TriceraShield's glowing shield?*
- *How do YOU feel at the end, when the friends continue exploring together?*

Getting to Know TriceraShield

These ten details come from this story. Choose one and find the moment it describes. What does it tell you about how TriceraShield guides and protects the group?

10 Things TriceraShield Wants You to Know About Him

1. He knows the Elders of Guardian Grove individually. He'd tell you their differences if you asked.
2. His shield can go around anything. He is careful about what he chooses.
3. His favorite part of any tour is the first question somebody asks him.
4. He walks slower than he needs to, on purpose, so the young ones look around.
5. He thinks Annie noticing the roots was better than anything he taught all day.
6. He wasn't angry with DarkHorn. He was disappointed, which is different and takes longer.
7. He left the door open for DarkHorn on purpose, and then didn't look to see if he came through it.
8. He has been protecting the grove long enough to have watched trees get taller.
9. "Just" is his least favorite word. Just plants, just bugs, just a puddle.
10. He has never finished exploring Guardian Grove. He doesn't expect to.

TriceraShield's Wonder & Care Plan

Choose one plant, tree, or outdoor place to notice together. You can also begin with a picture in the book. Use what you discover to think of one small way to show care.

For Grown-Ups: How to Use This Page

Write your child's words or let them draw. Start with what they can see, then help them form a question. Choose a manageable action, such as giving an animal space or helping care for a family plant. Come back to the plan afterward: what did you learn, and what would you like to notice next?

TriceraShield's Wonder & Care Plan

I can look closely, ask questions, and show care.

First, I wonder…

1. Something I want to notice: _____

2. A question I have: _____

☐ I can describe what I see.
☐ I can listen to someone else's idea.
☐ I can ask a grown-up to help me learn.

Then, I care…

3. One thing I learned or noticed: _____

☐ I can leave plants and animal homes undisturbed.
☐ I can ask how to help care for a plant.
☐ I can tell a grown-up if something needs help.

4. One caring action I can try: _____

Someone who can help me: _____

Next time, I want to discover: _____

Draw it: Draw something you want to learn about and care for. Add yourself and someone who can help you.

Bring DinoTopia Into Your Day

- **Take a noticing walk.** Choose a tree or planted area. Look up, down, and around, as Annie does. Name three things you notice and one thing you wonder. Watch any animals without disturbing them, then draw a favorite discovery.
- **Start a wonder page.** Keep a sheet of paper for your child's questions. Add drawings or dictated words whenever something catches their attention. Pick one question to explore together, and leave space for what you discover and any new questions.
- **Draw your connections.** Put your child's picture in the middle of a page and draw trusted people around it. Connect them with lines like the roots in the story. Along each line, add a way they help one another.
- **Listen to an elder's story.** The Elder trees have grown through many years. Invite a trusted older grown-up to share something they learned when they were young. Help your child choose a question, listen, and draw a detail they want to remember.
- **Design a sanctuary.** Draw a peaceful place with room for plants, animals, and visitors. Ask what each needs and how visitors could show care. Add a sign with one kind rule. Let your child explain their design as if guiding a tour.

Thank you for reading TriceraShield's Shielded Sanctuary!

The friends leave room for more discoveries as they continue through Guardian Grove. Carry that invitation into your day: notice something, ask a question, and find a small way to care for the world around you.

