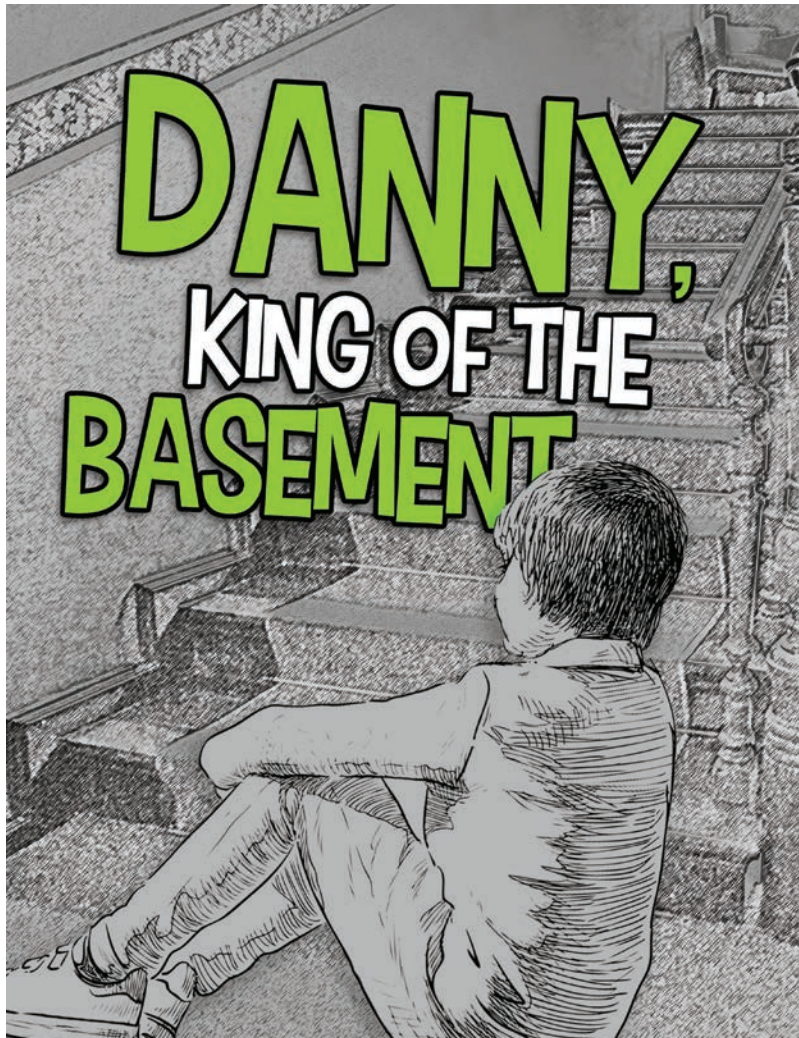


SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sun, Apr 28 at 4 PM

Sponsored by



**AUTISM STRONG
FOUNDATION**

2023-24 season - *Danny, King of the Basement*

By David S. Craig

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

Today's celebration is brought to life, in part, by:

C.D. Spangler Foundation, Inc.

Brian Litwak

Brian and Laura Murdock

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What to expect at a sensory-friendly performance

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that “softens” the environment. What does that mean exactly? In general, we make the theatre available to everyone, including those who may need more flexibility to help manage all of the sensory experiences that come along with attending a performance. Below are some of the adjustments Children’s Theatre of Charlotte is making to create a more sensory-friendly environment tailored to each show:

- Lights in the theatre will stay low during the show, instead of turning all the way off.
- We will lower the sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets for the sensory-friendly performances so families have more room to move as needed.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- Someone will be at the front of the stage with glow sticks to help give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing. Raising one stick means there’s a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting). Raising two sticks means a more intense sensory-rich moment is about to occur.
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

Support materials for you

We provide several guides to help prepare your family for your visit:

The Social Story walks your family through our facility and what to expect on your visit.

The Child Guide goes with each performance.

The Parent Guide like this one helps parents support their children’s learning and experience in the theatre.

The Sensory Table provides access to weighted toys, fidgets, and headphones for use as needed.



Special thanks

to Julie Higginbotham of Precious Developments. Julie has worked as our consultant in the creation and preparation of our sensory-friendly performances. We’re grateful for this valued partnership.

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in *Danny, King of the Basement*



Welcome to the show, you're really going to like our new friend, Danny!

Sensory-rich moments:

This beautiful production is fairly mild in regards to tech-based sensory-rich moments, but there are many emotional moments and sensitive topics in this story. As always, we will cue these moments along with the typical tech-based moments with our glowsticks at the front of the stage.

The first scene opens with music and lights on stage going out before brightening again.



Uh-oh, Danny and his mom need to go.....now!

Unsafe or unstable housing can make our belongings extra special since they're OURS.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains audio effects of snoring and a man's voice. It also contains a stressful emergency exit. It transitions into the next scene with music, lighting, and set shifts.



Whew! They made it safely to the bus! But Danny and his mom don't see this move the same way, do they?

Children have a unique way of finding ways to cope through difficult situations.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with bus dings and contains truck horns. It discusses topics like social services as well. The scene shifts into the next with music and a set shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet Penelopy and Angelo!

How do we support each other in making friends and building a village for our families?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains an audio recording of a woman's voice. It also contains discussions about divorced parents and angry parents. It transitions into the next scene with a dinosaur-like roar and a light shift before soft music plays.



Danny and his mother have arrived at their new place. What do you think of his game?

Pretending through struggles can be a way to protect ourselves from our current reality.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouts and another dinosaur-like roar and light shift.



Danny helps his mother by taking on some big responsibilities....

Take notice when children take on very adult responsibilities.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains discussion of money struggles and insufficient food. It transitions into the next scene with light music.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Danny and Angelo get to know each other.

Children can build friendships fast, and sometimes they need support from the adults around them.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with a silly dramatic “death” and contains hockey stick sounds. There are also multiple dinosaur sounds with light shifts.



Now it's time for Danny and Penelope to get to know each other.

How do we set an example of compassion when describing others to our children?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains discussion of clothing insufficiency and divorce.



Danny's mother is back, and she has good news!

How do we discuss big things with our children?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more discussions around under-resourced families tough parent-child relationships. It transitions into the next scene with music.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's time for Penelope to come through on her promise.....can she do it?

It is always the right time to stand up for each other.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with an audio recording of a woman's voice and the dinosaur-like sounds. It contains ringing and vibrating phone sounds and an active hockey scene with a buzzer sound. There is more discussion around divorced parents and clothing needs. The scene transitions to the next with simulated foot injuries.



Danny and Penelope have a pretty interesting way of helping Angelo!

Using ridiculous imagination to tackle anxiety can really help!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains discussion of anxiety and very energetic silly pretend surgery. There is more child-in-the-middle activity as well. It transitions into the next scene with dinosaur-like sounds with light shifts.



Angelo and Penelope have a chance to start over. Will they do it?

It's always the right time to apologize and start over whenever possible.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains phone rings and vibrations with more intense child-in-the-middle situations and brief vibrating trash can moments.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



What did Danny learn about the “dinosaur” in Angelo’s home?

What disguises do we wear as parents that we have to remember to take off with our children?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains an emotional perspective on parenting struggles and contains an audio recording of a male voice. There are also some more vibrating trash can moments. This scene transitions into the next with a lighting shift.



Danny’s mom is back from her first day at work. What does he think she’s going to say?

Sometimes children flip from optimism when things are tough to pessimism when things are going well.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more themes of children taking on adult roles and worries of upcoming instability. The simulated foot injuries return briefly as well.



It’s time for Danny to start school - look how kind his new freinds’ parents are! But Danny is about to get some news.....

How do we help take care of each other in an intentional, out-loud way?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains themes of food insufficiency and under-employment. There are lighting shifts, and the scene transitions into the next with a school bell and a school PA announcement.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



This class is reading an awesome book! Watch what happens when these students get to read aloud....

How do children compensate when they struggle with certain skills?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a lighting shift. There is an emotional discussion around all the weight of Danny's life that becomes a defensive bullying moment. It transitions into the next scene with music and shifts in lighting and the set.



Danny has prepared for bad news, but can he hear the good news?

Children often fill in blanks they're not qualified to fill in. How do we help give the safest and most complete picture to protect their experience?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is emotional as the stress builds for Danny. It transitions into the next scene with worry music and a lighting shift.



Oh no, where is Danny?

There are few things scarier than a missing child!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene builds in emotional energy with shouting and increasing chaos. There is a ticking clock sound and it transitions into the next scene with traffic sounds.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Whew, there's Danny! But, he's so cold.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a cold Danny, music, and an audio recording of the weather forecast and moves into Danny's description of his journey and being found. It moves into an emotional hospital scene of trying to save his life with a lighting shift, and there are beeping, defibrillator, and heartbeat sounds. The scene builds in intensity before transitioning into the final scene.



We're so glad Danny is OK! Even his friends are there to help him feel better in their most-interesting way.....

It's important to let others know how much we value their lives!

Sensory-rich moments:

This production ends with the start of another ridiculously silly play moment to tackle anxiety.

Thanks for joining us at Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance. We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.



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