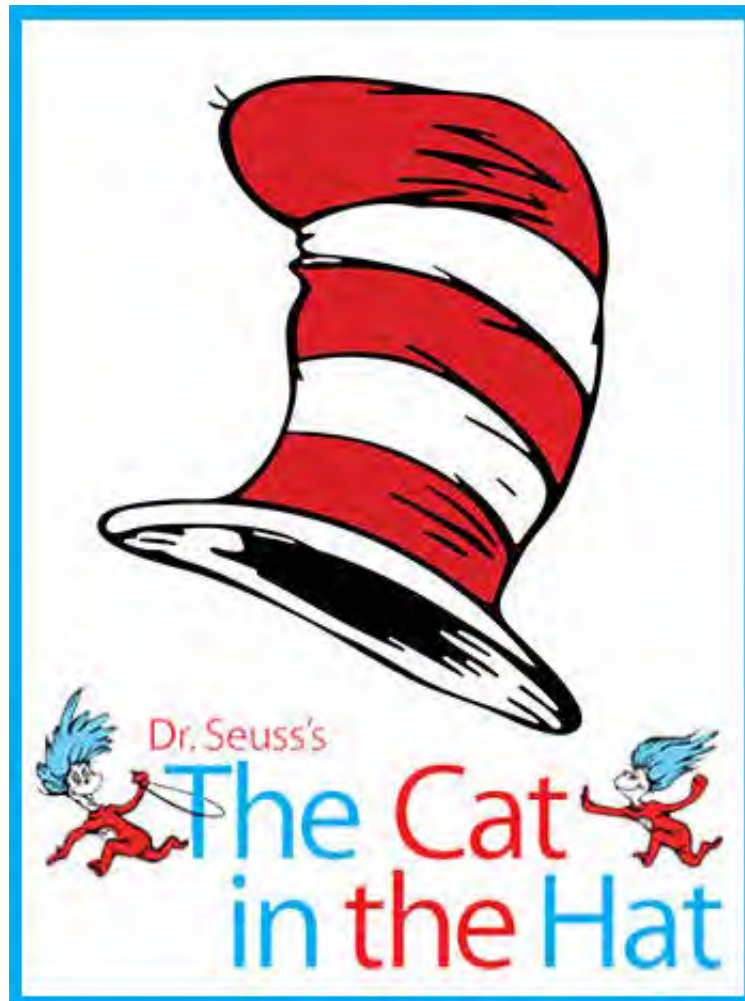


SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE  
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sun, Apr 20 at 3:00 PM

# Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*

Based on the book by Dr. Seuss

Play originally produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI

Presented by:

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

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

The Daniel, Edward, Cora & Strickland Foundation

Jennifer & Eric Madara

Rosemary Morgan & Fielding Huseh (click for pronunciation)

Brian & Laura Murdock

Mike & Katie Burgess

Maddie & Brian Myers

Lauren & William Voorhees



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## 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.

### 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.

# Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat*



Welcome to Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*! Get ready for a fun ride that only this Cat can deliver!

Before the show, we'll be in the theatre hanging out with the Cat himself, along with some of his friends. We'll come around and play, but remember - unless you're with one of us going onto the stage on purpose, we have to keep our audience fun out in the house. :)

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This show is very dynamic! We'll be cueing sensory-rich moments, and remember that we have resources available to help you feel comfortable!



After all that excitement, the show is actually starting! These kids are so bored, it's raining and they can't go outside to play....

*Rainy days are hard on everyone - how do we keep things engaging and entertaining?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

The show opens with a lighting shift and some announcements before a simulated rain storm coming from the orchestra pit. There are multiple sound, lighting, and music effects as the set transitions from outside the house to inside the house.



The children found some things to play with, but is it really enough? The Fish certainly wants to keep things mellow....

*Playing games that involve our whole body and our creative minds can help the time go faster.*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains multiple set and light shifts as the children go outside to find new things to play with, and each new activity comes with fun sound effects. Our narrator from the preshow helps tell the story. The scene transitions into the next with lighting shifts and underwater sounds.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Time for a nap. Even Fish is dreaming - look up!

*Bubbles for everyone! :)*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene starts with Fish making bubbles on stage, and then real bubbles will fall from over the audience! Lights will shine over the audience to light them up, then lights on stage will go dark for some cool shadow puppets and glow in the dark effects. There is music throughout the scene as with the underwater sounds, and the scene transitions back to the house with lights up again.



Back inside is a surprise for sure! What could possibly make that BUMP?

*It never hurts to be a surprise, especially when you're finding new ways to engage those around you!*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains multiple sound effects to bring in the BUMP. The narrator continues telling the story, and drumming music brings in the Cat for the next scene.



Why, it's none other than the Cat in the Hat! Isn't he grand? Let's see if the children and Fish agree...

*Make an entrance - we all deserve to take up space and be seen!*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains fun music to bring in the Cat, and the narrator continues to help tell this story. There is an "ew" moment with a hairball, and there is a "shock" moment with a flashy lighting effect that we have softened. There are more lighting and sound effects throughout the scene. Remember, we have sunglasses if you need them!



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The Cat knows some games they can play - watch for your turn to play, too!

*Our minds are a beautiful thing, we can pretend literally anything!*

### Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more sound effects as the Cat continues to play, and he even “blows up” a big ball that will “bounce” out into the house! We’ll be pretending, but the Cat will show us where it lands so we can “bump” it back to him! There are also significant lighting shifts at times, and we have sunglasses if you need them!



Well, the Fish sure isn’t excited about the Cat in the Hat. What will happen when he tries to put down his.....fin?

*Sometimes we can take control, sometimes we just can’t....*

### Sensory-rich moments:

The narrator helps tell the story in this transition scene, and it moves into the next scene with drumrolls/cymbals with the Cat’s tricks.



Well, this is certainly NOT what the Fish had in mind, but the children are sure having a good time!

*Where do we decide to draw the line between playing and too much of all the things?*

### Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more funny sound effects while playing with the children. It gains in momentum with a precarious tower of “stuff,” and there is a significant lighting shift with slow motion movement and sound effects. **From the first “woah,” this moment lasts about 51 seconds before the lights come back up.**



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The Fish still wants to put an end to the Cat's shenanigans, but the Cat really wants to stay...

*It's OK to give in sometimes, especially when the battle isn't worth the fight.*

### Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more music/dancing with lighting shifts. It transitions into the end of this scene with lights up and sound effects as the Cat continues his playful antics. The narrator will pop up briefly to redirect the Cat, too. The scene transitions to the next with a brief gasping Fish moment,



Of course, the Cat has something else up his sleeve. What can he possibly do with that big red box?

*Sometimes, we just have to see how things play out.*

### Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains dramatic falls and continued Cat ridiculousness. It transitions into the next scene with minimal shifts.



There they are, Thing 1 and Thing 2! How will they introduce themselves to the children and the Fish?

*Meeting new people can feel weird, but the more blue hair, the better....*

### Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with some banging and some mild sound effects, then there is a short Macarena dance. The scene escalates significantly with big lighting shifts, silly music, chaotic running/chasing, and shouting. ***This active moment begins when the Cat turns around and shakes his hips and lasts for about 45 seconds before the lights come up.***



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued

The Cat says the Things are tame, but they're about to do WHAT inside the house??



### Sensory-rich moments:

This is a longer scene with multiple significant scenes, we'll be cueing the details the whole time. Remember, we have plenty of resources if you need additional support to help you feel comfortable! :) **Here's the breakdown of the chaos:**

1. Kite Flying at "not one little bit" - music, lighting shifts, shouts, running - lasts about 26 seconds
2. Slow-Motion kick after Cat brings out a chair - same slow-motion lighting/sound shifts from page 6 - lasts about 22 seconds
3. Destruction of the house begins after "down the wall in the hall" - lasts about 51 seconds
4. Bedroom destruction at "all kinds of bad tricks" - lasts about 58 seconds

But wait....there's more coming in the next scene...



The children and the Fish are officially over all the things, what can they do make it stop??



### Sensory-rich moments:

There's another round of chaos coming, **here's the breakdown for you:**

1. More destruction at "get rid of Thing 1 and Thing 2" - lasts about 43 seconds
2. Chasing with a net after "get those Things yet" - lights low without other spinning lights - lasts about 33 seconds
3. More chaos with active lighting at "3, 2, 1" - lasts about 12 seconds
4. Backlighting with shadows of the Things, then chasing resumes - lasts about 23 seconds
5. Final moment catching the Things with sound effects, a PLOP sign dropping in, a brighter lighting shift, and finishing music.

WHEW! We did it!!!! Now to move along in the story....





## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



They actually caught the Things, can you believe it? Now what should they do with them?

*How do we re-establish boundaries when the wheels have fallen off the bus?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene only has some shouting and is short - yay LOL! :)



The Cat is officially sad, and it's time to say good-bye to Thing 1 and Thing 2. But how will the children fix this mess they made?

*We can do so much to correct things that go left!*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains a long tantrum moment from the cat and transitions into the next scene with a milder lighting shift.



Will this clean-up crew actually work, or will the Cat keep them from fixing all the things?

*It can be a lot to take a chance on someone who wants to help us out, but what do we risk if we don't give them the opportunity?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene is busy (but not as busy as the last big rounds!!) - it contains music and the clean-up with sound effects and lighting shifts. It transitions back to the house for the final scene.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Mom is home.....are you holding your breath to see how it goes?

*Do we always have to report when there are problems, or can we remember to celebrate landing on a success?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This final scene brings the show to a close with some sound effects and a voiceover effect. The scene concludes with lights darkening and fading completely out. The lights will come back up for the curtain call with music.



Time to celebrate this wonderful production - let them know what you thought about it! And keep an eye out, you may see some visitors out in the audience to give you final farewells! Just remember, we're staying in the audience for this part. :)

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

The curtain call has some fun music and dancing with some lighting shifts, and a few actors will come out into the house to say good-bye.

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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