

SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sun, Jan 19 at 4:00 PM

Sponsored by



**AUTISM STRONG
FOUNDATION**

2024-25 season - *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!*

Book and Lyrics by Robert Kauzlaric

Music by Paul Gilvary and William Rush

Based on the book by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

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

Cornwell Foundation

LendingTree

Brian Litwak

Sandy & Greg Vlahos

April & Thomas Whitlock

Children's Theatre of Charlotte is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, and The Shubert Foundation.



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 *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!*



Welcome! Did you know there's a "true" story of the 3 Little Pigs? Well, listen closely, you may be surprised....

There's always more than one side to every story!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a fun production with multiple musical numbers containing lighting shifts. Remember, we have sunglasses for you to borrow if that would help you feel most comfortable.

You get to be part of the show as the jury, so warm up your oinks! :)



Meet McGill - he's your resident reporter...among other things... He'll get us started as he reports on this breaking story. Oh, and look - it's the Big Bad Wolf!

Reporters have to stay neutral and objective when reporting, especially when in the courtroom!

Sensory-rich moments:

The show opens with lighting coming on in stages and a news ticker beeping sound. There is background audio of a crowd, and the musical number is jazzy with mild lighting shifts, periodic tempo changes, and some wolf howls.



Meet Julia and the Judge - they're going to get you started! Now, as the Juror, be ready to take your "oath" and make it all official!

Jurors have to listen carefully to all sides when deciding "guilty" or "not guilty."

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is your first chance to be part of the show - you'll get to "oink" your way into becoming an official Juror!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Wow, that's a lot of charges brought up against the Big Bad Wolf - do you think he will plea guilty or not guilty?

Everyone deserves to be represented fairly, no matter what!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a mild scene that moves smoothly into the next moment.



It's time for Julia to deliver her opening statement. I bet you've never seen an opening statement like this one in a courtroom before....

How much effort do we put into making sure someone takes our side?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene begins with a drumroll, then it moves into an energetic musical number with some mild lighting shifts.



The Big Bad Wolf will have to be sure his opening statement is, well, musical.....

Storytelling is more than giving facts, it's about the engagement.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains an active musical number with more significant lighting shifts, but the lights stay contained on set. It ends with a lighting shift before the lights come back up on stage.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Time for the first witness, Dr. Shears. But is the Big Bad Wolf getting a fair trial?

How do we show children how to stick up for each other when things aren't fair?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains various sound effects and a more significant spotlight lighting shift.



Now for Martha, the second witness. What will she have to say about the Big Bad Wolf?

We believe what we think we see, but how often are we right?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains character voices, including quick shifts to deeper voice tones to tell the story and mild lighting shifts. There is also another quick spotlight lighting shift with sound effects. There's another musical number with a super fast tempo at the end that increases lighting shifts and energy. The scene ends with a quick lights-up shift.



The Big Bad Wolf finally gets to ask some questions.....

Sometimes answering questions about stories helps us see a clearer picture.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some sound effects and gavel bang.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



One of the Three Little Pigs survived all the things - let's hear what he has to say. The Big Bad Wolf also gets to ask more questions this time around, kind of...

How do we handle it when we hear others' trying to shift away from facts?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains side effects and dramatic sad emotions. There is also a moment of a deeper voice tone and some shouting.



The Judge wants to move on to sentencing, but the Big Bad Wolf has more to say about his side of the story....

How often do we allow people to share their sides of the story before we pass judgment?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains sound effects and some raised voices. There is a musical number that changes tempo multiple times. There are also lighting changes that stay contained on the stage, and the song ends with a howl.



Whew - we made it to closing arguments! Listen closely so you can decide the Big Bad Wolf's fate!

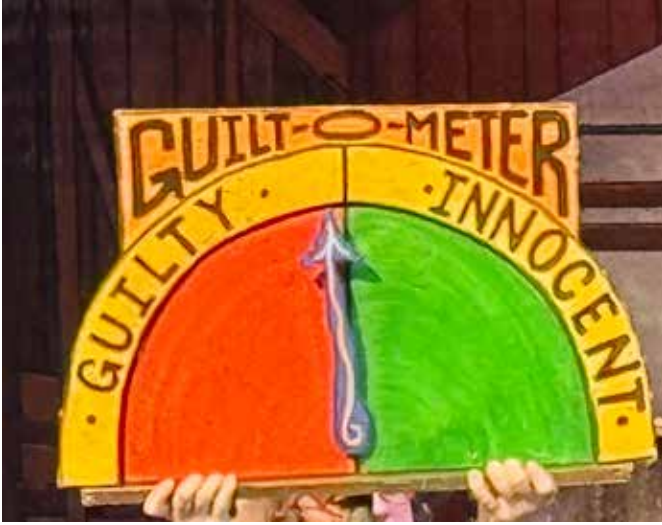
Talking over each other isn't the way to be heard!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains sound effects and characters talking over each other.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's your turn - you get to decide whether the Big Bad Wolf gets locked up or if he gets to go free! Warm up those oinkers.....

Your "oinks" matter!!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains the verdict, so be ready, this is your time! The ending musical number is based on your vote - it's a zippy song with lighting shifts and ends with lights out on stage before lights up for the final curtain call.

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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