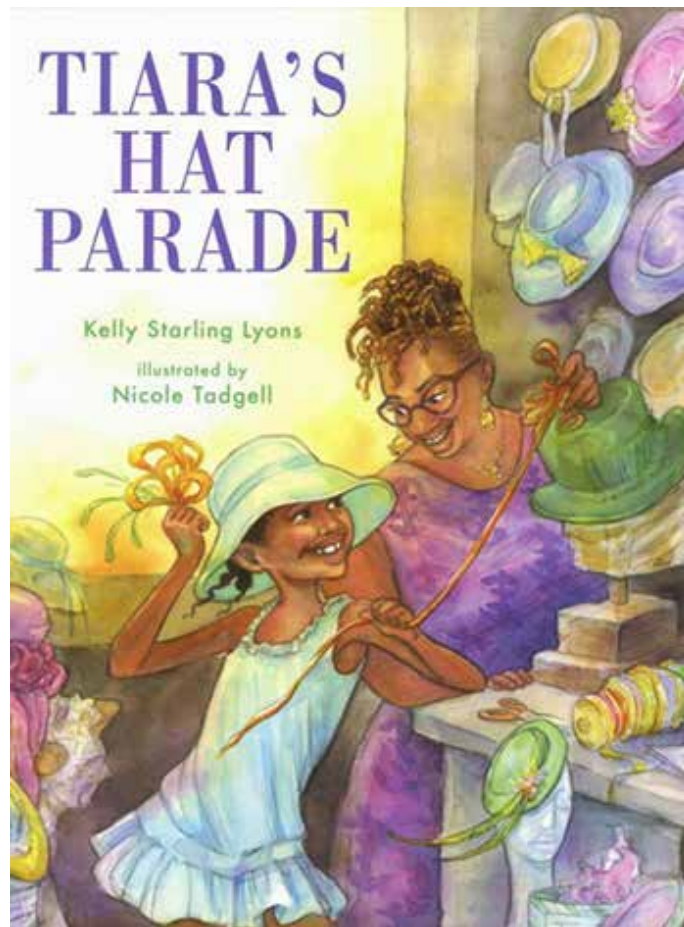


SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sun, Mar 09 at 4:00 PM

Sponsored by



**AUTISM STRONG
FOUNDATION**

Tiara's Hat Parade

Adapted for the stage by Paige Hernandez
Based on the book written by Kelly Starling Lyons

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

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

Dorlisa & Peter Flur
Linda Reynolds
Herb & Gina Clegg

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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.

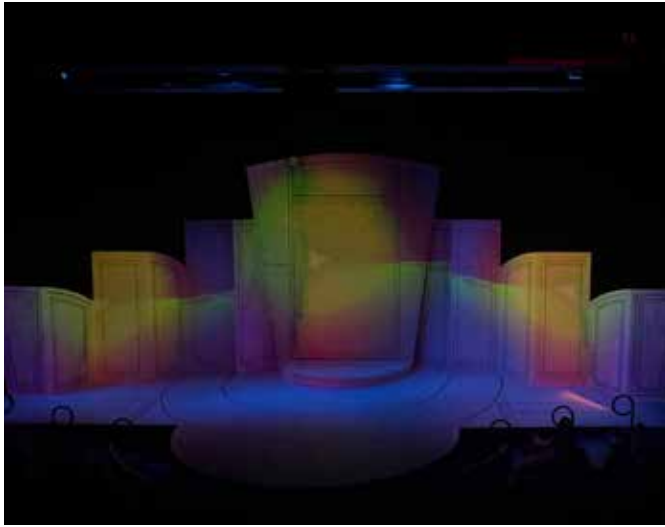
The Sensory Table provides access to weighted toys, fidgets, and headphones for use as needed.

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 *Tiara's Hat Parade*



Welcome to Tiara's Hat Parade! Tiara is the sweetest girl, and she has a beautiful story to tell!

Our culture is amazing and deserves to be lived and loved!

Sensory-rich moments:

This production opens with projection effects on the set, as well as mild musical tones, sound effects, and voiceover effects of laughter. The opening scene builds into the next fun dancing scene. While this is a milder production in general, we always have resources to help you feel comfortable while you're here with us!



Meet Tiana! She sure has some snazzy dance moves....

Dance it out - it will feel amazing!

Sensory-rich moments:

This opening scene has fun music and some vocalizations, as well as busier projections on set and lighting effects. The scene transitions quickly into the next scene with a lighting shift and an end to the music.



Tiara is quite the storyteller and model - she's going to show you how she sees her wonderful mama!

Children imitate what they see around them - what kind of example do we set for them?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene introduces our amazing actor as she becomes every character in the story! There are some audio sound effects and lighting shifts in this scene, as well as a spotlight and ding moment.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Tiara is going to "introduce" you to the ladies who come to buy her mother's hats - listen closely, it's about so much more than the hats.....

Why is it important to talk about cultural traditions and pass them on to those around us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, singing, and slight energy shifts as the actor imitates different characters.



Say it out loud - "WORTHY AND WE KNOW IT!!

We can show the world that everyone has a voice, and every single voice should be heard!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, including a string of lights along the front edge of the stage. If you need sunglasses to help you feel comfortable, we're here for you! Also, you'll be invited to say it out loud - WORTHY AND WE KNOW IT!! :)



"Meet" Tiara's dad - ooh, and listen to the wonderful things he can cook! He also knows just how to be there for Tiara and her mom!

It's a beautiful thing when we can truly celebrate each other's dreams!!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some lighting shifts and another character introduced to the story.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Tiara's explanation of this magical feeling is just that - magical!

Culture and tradition is about so much more than the actions, it's about the feelings that come with them!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more significant lighting shifts and projections, and it transitions into the next with a lighting/projection shift.



Mama has noticed that her friends have been acting differently, and she's about to find out why....

Small businesses bring so much to our communities, but how do we support them?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, including a significant one to display the magic of a very special hat. This moment starts with trumpet sounds, and the intensity increases with projections, light from the box, and music.



Mama isn't happy about her friends' choices, but she is kind first and always!

Whatever happens around us, or even to us, it's important to treat others with kindness, no matter what!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a mild scene with minimal projection shifts and a soft musical sound effect, and it transitions into the next scene with a mild lighting shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Tiara tries to reassure her mom, and she explains all the interesting sayings she hears her mother say.

Children pick up on our emotions, and when they try to reassure us, they're often looking for reassurance for themselves.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts and on-stage spotlights, and it transitions to the next scene with light music, darker lighting shifts, and projections.



Things keep slowing down, and everyone is feeling stressed out!

We can't protect kids from stressful situations, but how we talk them through it makes all the difference in how they process it.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains projection shifts, light background music, and a mild set shift.



Tiara knows how to bring the joy, but will it change her mother's mind?

Reflection isn't easy, but it's necessary for growth.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more significant lighting and projection shifts to go along with a fun ABCs musical rap. These changes start with Tiara's "kick it off, Mama!" Remember, we have sunglasses for you to use if you need them to feel most comfortable!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Mama has some very specific instructions for Tiara, and she has to work through her own emotions, too.

How do we appreciate the magic and the experience when we have to change course, even temporarily?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains stronger emotions, soft background music and sound effects, somewhat busy projections, and lighting shifts. It transitions into the next scene with a blue-out and lighting coming from behind the set.



Things aren't getting better yet...but wait - Tiara might have a solution....

We're allowed to have our own emotions, but what do we do when we project those emotions onto others around us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with this spotlight moment, then a swift brighter lighting shift. There is also a brief, more emotional moment. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting shift and background music.



Ooh, the hat studio is calling Tiara's name.....what do you think she should do?

It's so hard for us to resist temptations, especially for younger humans!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, sound effects, a brief crash sound, and audience engagement - tell Tiara what you think she should do! It transitions into the next scene with a set shift and door creaking sound.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Tiara is about to feel the joy and magic again....but what will her parents think about that?

We have to be ready for consequences for our actions, both positive and less-than-desirable....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, background music, a voiceover audio effect, a vault-closing sound effect, and a getting-caught moment. It transitions into the next scene with



Tiara really wants to see miracles happen, and she is bringing her A game!

How do we find hope and strength when things feel hopeless?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains significant projection shifts lighting shifts. There is a joyful song with background clapping, tambourine, and organ music. It ends with an emotional spotlight moment before transitioning with background music, active projections, and school sound effects.



YAY! Mama is teaching at Tiara's school! Can Tiara convince her to make more hats now? Maybe you can help....

Children really know how to pull out all the stops to convince us to change our minds, don't they?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts and an audience engagement moment - did you bring your best pouty face today?



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet Tiara's friends, even the bully.....

It just takes one voice to stand against unkindness - how can we make sure we are ALL that voice?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains significant lighting shifts, a bullying moment, and some minor scary music. You get to help Tiara again when she needs to be brave! It moves into a moment with more significant lighting shifts with circus music, and you get to show off your own hats, even if they're just pretend hats! It transitions into the next scene with a lighting shift.



Did it work? Did Tiara bring back the hat magic for her mother?

In case you forgot, YOU ARE WORTHY AND WE KNOW IT!!!!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains another opportunity for you to engage - say it again, "WORTHY AND WE KNOW IT!" The scene transitions to the next with a school bell and lighting shift for a mini scene with sound effects. It transitions into the next big scene with a more significant lighting shift, projections, and music.



Tiara made a fun plan to celebrate her mother AND her culture! Wait until you see all the special guests, and a super special moment for Mama.....

Everyone really can celebrate all cultures and traditions!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a more active scene that brings every character from the story to life! There is music, more active lighting effects and shifts, and the light along the front edge of the stage. The scene transitions after we get to encourage each other with another shout out for kindness!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Wait until you see what's next for Tiara.....

*When we can pass on our culture and traditions,
we strengthen our history!*

Sensory-rich moments:

This final scene contains lighting shifts, projections, and background music. The show concludes with a quick blackout on stage, and the lights will come back up for the curtain call. Let us know what you thought about this story and message! :)

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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