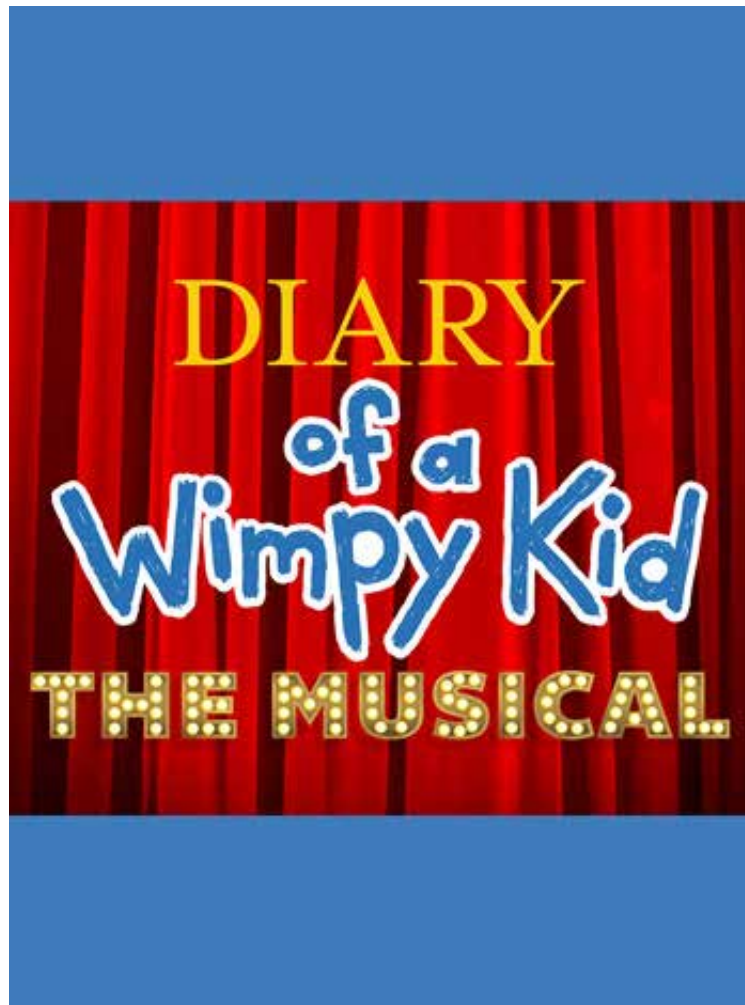


SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sun, Feb 23 at 4:00 PM

Sponsored by



**AUTISM STRONG
FOUNDATION**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid The Musical

Book by Kevin del Aguila

Music and Lyrics by Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler

Based on the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" Book Series by Jeff Kinney and the 20th Century Studios

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

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

Parker Poe

Ann & Scott Manning

Children's Theatre of Charlotte is supported, in part, by the City of Charlotte and its generous donors, and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. Additional support for this production provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by 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.

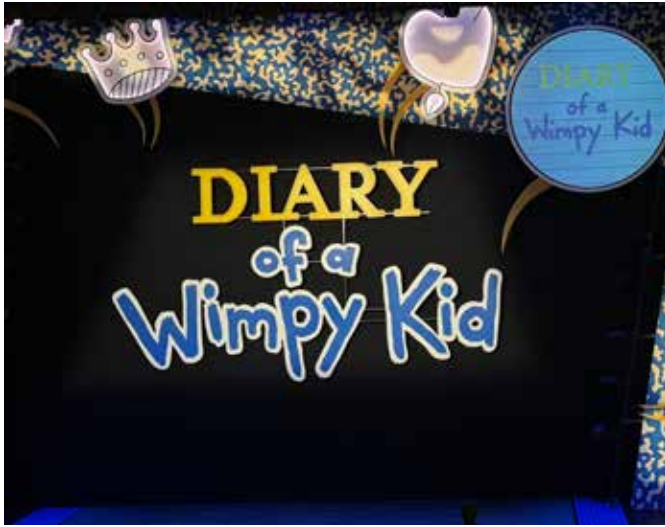
The Sensory Table provides access to weighted toys, fidgets, and headphones for use as needed.



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 *Diary of a Wimpy Kid The Musical*



Welcome!! We can't wait to dive into "Diary of a Wimpy Kid The Musical" with you! Get ready, there's a lot to see here today....

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a super fun, super energetic production! There are a lot of projections and lighting effects that we have adjusted, but just in case that's not enough, we have sunglasses for you to use. There are also multiple moments throughout the show when the cast members are out in the audience. As always, if you need anything at all to help you feel comfortable in our space, please don't hesitate to let us know! :)



Meet Greg, our favorite Wimpy Kid! He's starting middle school, and we know that's a big transition! Oh, and remember, it's not a diary.

How do we prepare kids for big transitions in their lives so they don't predict the worst?

Sensory-rich moments:

This production opens with a brief mini concert with multiple lighting effects, then transitions into a brief scene before transitioning into the next one.



This is Greg's family - not only is he in middle school, but he's also the middle kid!

How do we balance our attention across everyone who needs it?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some lighting effects and brief mild flashes simulating a picture being taken, and it moves swiftly into a more active musical number.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Middle school has officially begun...

Middle school is a time of big changes for kids!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a bigger musical number with more lighting effects and activity. This is where some middle school bullying moments are first seen as well. It shifts into a smaller scene moment.



Greg is confident he'll become famous with his journal, but he has one catch...

How do we think our best selves will evolve?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting and moves into the next one with a school bell and a quick scene shift to a mini classroom moment. It transitions to the next scene with a school bell and a scene shift.



Popularity is certainly a bigger thing in middle school!

How important is popularity, really?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts in the cafeteria and moves into a busy PE class scene for the short musical number with a school bell.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Um, what's with the cheese on the ground? You're about to find out....

Our imaginations can certainly run away with us!

Sensory-rich moments:

This musical number contains more significant lighting shifts and overall activity. It transitions to the next scene with a quick stop and quick lighting shift.



Greg is still struggling with his popularity ranking. How will this impact his friendships?

How do we prioritize each other over our own status?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains voice effects, sound effects, and quick lighting shifts, as well as a much bigger bullying moment that builds into an ensemble musical number. It moves into the next scene with a significant lighting shift and set change.



It's time to "hang out."

How do we define the time we spend together, and how much does it matter?

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a quick mini-scene that transitions with a minor set shift into the next musical number.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Greg is about to have an idea...

It takes more effort to plan to be visible than to just be ourselves.

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a milder musical number with lighting shifts throughout. It transitions into the next scene with mild lighting and set shifts.



It's time for a test in middle school! But is it about geography this time?

What happens when we start competing with each other?

Sensory-rich moments:

This brief scene contains a PA announcement bell and lighting shifts, and it transitions to the next scene with a school bell and set change.



Well, now the competition is officially on with an election, and Greg is about to make some very specific choices for who he's going to be.

Do we want to represent others, or ourselves?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene moves into busy musical number with a school bell. It contains more multiple school bells, significant lighting shifts, and a lot of activity. The song builds in energy to significant bullying moment.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Greg has some regrets, but will that stop him from plotting more for popularity?

If we have to try so hard to be someone else, is it actually worth it?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting and moves into a fun rap song. There are more significant lighting shifts throughout, and it comes to a quick close with black-out lighting shift, and a concert scene begins with actors out in the house!



Ready for a Joshy concert?

Why do we connect with music and musicians?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with actors in the house and very significant lighting shifts, then moves into a concert scene on stage. There are lights out in the house that have been adjusted out onto the walls. The scene transitions into the next section of the song with a lighting shift.



Woah, Greg is really having a dream....

Our dreams can get pretty weird when we're under pressure or big things are happening!

Sensory-rich moments:

The concert transitions into a dream sequence with a lot of lighting effects that builds to the end of the song. The ending has very increased lighting effects, and the actual ending moment repeats 10 times and lasts for 37 seconds. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting/set shift and school bell. Remember, we have sunglasses you can use if you need extra support with the lighting effects!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Let's see if Greg's next plan to be popular works, and what it might do to his friendship.

It's hard to stop a moving train sometimes.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, and there's a brief bullying moment and a PA announcement sound effect. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting/set shift.



OK, now Greg has some talent for comics, but how will it impact his friendship with Rowley?

There's always room for all of us at the table, but we have to create that space on purpose.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains comic characters brought to life, and they're in full costumes with masks. There are smooth lighting shifts from bright to dark for each comic moment. It also contains an unkind moment before transitioning to the next scene with a school bell and set shift.



Moment of truth....will Greg finally get a good popularity rating?

Does everyone see popularity the same way?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains another PA announcement setup, and there's a milder musical number that ends in a bullying moment. The comic book characters also return with lighting shifts. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting and set shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The comic strip didn't work out the way Greg hoped it would, and neither did his friendship with Rowley. Will Fregley be a good friend choice?

What makes someone a friend?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a light musical number with some gross moments. It transitions twice during the song using set/projection shifts, and there is a brief flashing light moment that has been softened. Remember we have sunglasses if you need some to help you feel more comfortable!



Oh dear, things are about to get a little more.... energetic....

How do we describe and/or explain behavior patterns we see?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene continues with this song, and at this moment, the sensory-rich moments escalate. There are more significant lighting shifts, the energy becomes more chaotic, and the scene ends with a quick transition to calm after approximately 1 minute.



Well, that got a little awkward, and now Greg is figuring out some important things.

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

Sensory-rich moments:

This ballad contains mild lighting and set shifts. It transitions into the next scene with lights out on stage, then lights up with a school bell.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Oh no, this was not supposed to be happening this way....

When we really care, things can escalate quickly. How do we set an example of control?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting and transitions into the start of a simulated fight. There are actors in the house, so keep an eye out for them! The scene escalates and transitions into the next with scared shouting and a set shift. Lighting effects in the house has been softened and adjusted to aim at the walls and ceiling.



Wow - things have gotten terrible!!! Those 8th graders are being so unkind!!! What will Greg do?

It's our responsibility to stick up for each other!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a more intense bullying scene with more aggressive words/actions. Lighting effects have been softened, and we have sunglasses available if you need them. The scene transitions into the next song smoothly.



C'mon, Greg - now's your chance!

We always have an opportunity to learn and behave differently!

Sensory-rich moments:

This song starts as a ballad, and it shifts into a brief, quick song with lighting shifts that transitions to the next scene with a shout.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



After all that drama, what happens now, Greg??

We can never really predict how things will turn out, can we?

Sensory-rich moments:

This final scene contains a musical number with lighting shifts, and it builds to the final moment of the show. The cast will be out in the house to sing and dance with you before the final ending and again after the curtain call. Lighting effects in the house will be cast up onto the walls and ceiling.

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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