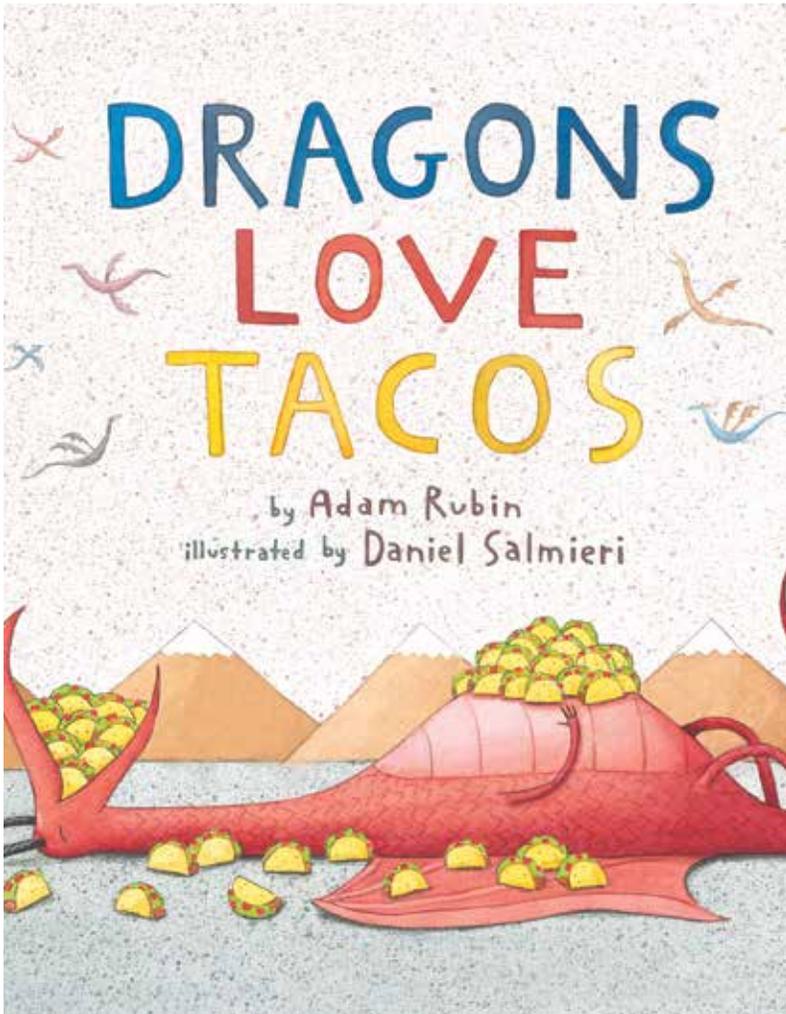


SENSORY-  
FRIENDLY  
PERFORMANCE



## PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, March 6 at 4 PM



# Dragons Love Tacos

By Ernie Nolan

Based On The Book By Adam Rubin With Illustrations By Daniel Salmieri

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Produced By Special Arrangement With Plays For New Audiences

## About the show

What could go wrong when you give a dragon spicy salsa? EVERYTHING. The #1 New York Times bestselling phenomenon comes to life in a big way as the taco party of all taco parties literally brings down the house. This deliciously funny story will have you laughing out loud and wishing you read the fine print more closely: Now Made with Spicy Jalapeño Peppers.

## Show support



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

Dr. Daniel Donner  
Arrington and Burch Mixon  
Erik and Amelia Peterson  
Jennifer and Jack Ross  
Patrick and Elizabeth Vaughn  
Daniel, Ratliff and Company  
Publix Super Markets Charities  
The Women's Impact Fund

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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 light means there’s a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting).
- 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 visit guide that walks your family through our facility.

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.

We want you to have the opportunity to enjoy the theatre with your family, so with that, please enjoy the show!

## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Who would have known that Dragons Love Tacos? Get ready to hear all kinds of mind-blowing, earth shattering, titillating secrets about these mystical creatures!

### **Sensory-rich moments - The Production**

This production is FULL of wonderful music and exciting effects! The man is the only character who actually talks (until the end), so the characters all communicate through their own special sounds and movements. See some more general info below about this production to get you started.....



Meet the Boy! His homework is hard today!

### **Sensory-rich moments - Effects**

There are a lot of sound effects throughout this production that help bring this story to life! Sometimes they happen without other noises, and sometimes they happen during busier moments or musical numbers. There are too many individual effects to list them all with each picture in this guide, but we'll give you a note about ones that stand out. Don't forget that we'll also give you live glowstick cues during the actual show!



This is Leroy. He's such a good dog and just wants to make the boy happy.

### **Sensory-rich moments - Musical Numbers**

The music and dancing in this production are so fun! Every musical number has a lot of lighting effects with a high activity level. Remember, we keep the house lights turned up some to help offset the sensory experience for those who benefit from that support. If it's not enough, we also offer sunglasses for our audience members to borrow if needed.

Now, on to our regular guide notes.....



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Mom has to leave for a bit, so the boy and his dog get to play together.

*It's a big deal when kids get to stay home alone for the first time!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains a voiceover and playful sound effects. There is also a softened lightening/thunder moment.

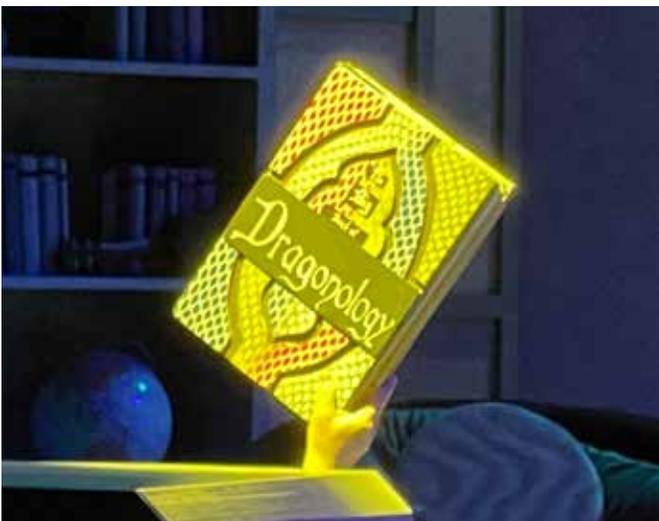


Time for some TV. They don't know that they're about to start an adventure with the click of a remote....

*TV can be educational and can be a great opportunity for engagement.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains a TV effect on the set.



Did you know Dragonology existed? Neither did we.....

*Some sciences sound like they're not real. Those are the best to explore!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene transitions into the next one with a more prominent lightening/thunder moment with a shout and a more significant lighting shift into the next scene.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet the Man - he's ready to teach the boy and his dog so much, but are they ready for him?

*Engaging teachers are the best!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

The man is our main storyteller throughout the show. He is silly, engaging, and makes all kinds of sound effects!



Wait, did the man really invite dragons to the house?

*Interactive learning engages all kinds of learning styles.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains some mild sound effects and transitions into the first musical number. Moving forward, the overall energy and sensory levels increase with fewer quiet moments in between.



Meet Red Dragon - isn't she lovely?

*Everyone has different personalities to celebrate!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

Each of the dragons has their own style of music and dancing, but each of their musical numbers contain lots of lighting effects and fun energy. Each one transitions to the next with a gentle gong sound.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Here's the White Dragon - he's a classy fellow!



The Blue Dragon is so sweet!

**Sensory-rich moments:**

The Blue Dragon is the first to make her own sound effects. They will all start making more sounds from this point on.



The Yellow Dragon takes a party with him wherever he goes!

**Sensory-rich moments:**

After this dragon's introduction, there is a cheering moment, followed by a quieter moment that transitions into a group number.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Time for the first mind-blowing, earth shattering, titillating secret! Wait, what's that sound?

*We all know what happens if we get too hungry....*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains light sound effects and lighting shifts partway through the quieter moment. It introduces more of the dragon's sound effects and communication styles, too. It transitions to the next moment with a harder stop and a soft dance number to move us along.



Yay for tacos!! But wait, what happens if they're even a little bit spicy?

*Everyone has different preferences for flavors and textures.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains tummy sound effects and some flashing lights that will be softened.



Pay close attention to what dragons CAN eat on tacos....

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene goes in and out of short musical number moments with each taco topping. You get to help guess what each one is! It transitions with a milder musical number into the next scene.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Here's another mind-blowing, earth shattering, titillating secret...but the man seems to be having a hard time....

*Phones can really interfere with our engagement with others, but they're also good resources!*

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

This scene contains another brief engaging audience moment with a soft cell phone ringing sound. There are also various set sound effects.



It's party time for the dragons. How many different kinds of parties can you count?

*Parties are a great opportunity to get creative and have a good time!*

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

There are multiple brief party scenes, and each one has its own energy with a fun transition between them.



They're still partying....



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



How are they still partying?

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This party ends with a group moment and transitions into one more slightly longer party moment.



They're so tired, but not too tired for one more fun party game.....

*Charades are fun and can be a great teaching tool!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This moment contains more energy and a celebration at the end. It transitions into a quieter moment with a little bit of teasing.



Is there really another party for the dragons? Wait until you see this one.....

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene transitions into a silly scene with lots of prop changes and activity on the set, but it keeps the same general energy level with quiet stop moments throughout. It transitions into the next busy scene with a shouting moment at the front of the scene as the dragons come back out.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



What's better than a taco party? But the man has a warning for us....

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene opens with a very busy set change with lots of energy and excitement. It has a hard stop moment in the middle before it transitions into the actual party. There is an extended set transition with a gentle musical number that has lots of lighting effects.



Wait! Stop! Don't eat that taco!

*It's hard when we have to intervene to keep someone from doing something unsafe.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This is the start of THE BUSIEST EXTENDED MOMENT IN THE SHOW!!! The transition begins with an extended shouting moment and goes into a slow motion moment with a voice effect. All the lights, sounds, effects, everything is about to happen on this stage, and it's amazing!



Oh no, a taco trauma!!

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene will start with big lighting effects on the stage and a quick shift to a faster energy level. This is an extended scene - it will build through dramatic set changes, a lot of busy lights and movement, cast sound effects, fog effects on the set, pretend fire, and sirens. We're not kidding about just how big this taco trauma really is!



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Does he really think this is ok?

*Even when bad things happen, we can always find a way to make it through to the other side.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

The big dramatic scene we just saw comes to a quiet moment, then there's a big surprise of one last destruction moment. It quiets back down until the next moment.



The boy is so mad! What's the man going to do now?

*We need to pay attention when we hear other's loud communication with us.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This is the first time the boy speaks, and he's not happy.



What is the boy going to do? Will he decide to open the door again after what just happened?

*Sometimes we have to choose to change our situation.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This moment contains a doorbell sound and transitions with music for the dragons to come back to the stage.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The dragons are back, and they have a plan. Thank goodness!

*When we make a mistake, we need to do our best to make things right.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains lighting effect and a musical number, as well as light construction sounds. There are more big set shifts throughout it.



NOW the man tells us the last mind-blowing, earth shattering, titillating secret? Better late than never....

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This moment transitions into the final dance numbers of the production.



The boy has to say goodbye to his new friends....

*How do we maintain friendships, even if we can't always be together?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This production opens with lighting shifts and light music. Each dragon gets their own musical moment that shadows their introductions at the start of the show.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Time to say goodbye to the man that took the boy and his dog on this wild ride! Do you think they'll miss him?

*How do we appreciate what others bring to us, even when the ride is a little bumpy?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene moves into the final moments with some mild sound effects.



After all of that, the boy is ready to dive back into his homework. He's been through so much today - what's for dinner?

*How do we change after going through something exciting?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This production ends with some soft sound effects, a voiceover, and one more light shout from the boy before the lights go out and they all come back out for one last goodbye to all of you.

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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