

SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sun, Jan 21 at 4 PM

Sponsored by



**AUTISM STRONG
FOUNDATION**

2023-24 season - Schoolhouse Rock Live!

Originally Adapted and Produced for the Stage by Theatre BAM | From the Series Created by George Newall and Tom Yohe | Based on an Idea by David McCall | Book by Scott Ferguson, George Keating and Kyle Hall | Music and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall and Tom Yohe | Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com
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Presented by:

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

Lauren and William Voorhees

Rob and Caryn Craige

Offit Kurman

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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 *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*



Welcome to Schoolhouse Rock Live! Are you ready to dance, sing, and maybe learn a few things along the way?

Sensory-rich moments:

This production is full of old-school favorites from Schoolhouse Rock, and there are multiple opportunities for audience members to participate in this interactive show! This show is almost all music, and sensory-rich moments will be noted throughout this guide. While we have softened the lighting effects throughout the production, remember that we offer sunglasses in case you need some extra support.



Meet Tom - he's a teacher getting ready for the first day of school, but he seems a little nervous.....

How do we prepare kids for big "firsts" coming their way?

Sensory-rich moments:

This production opens with a school bell and some funny introductions. As the first musical number begins, there are lights coming from the back of the stage and a quick start to the first rock song.



Whoa, Tom really knows how to bring a TV show to life! Who knew learning about VERBS would be so awesome?

How do we help make learning fun and interesting?

Sensory-rich moments:

The first song is very lively with lighting effects coming from the back of the stage. There are additional moving lights that are contained on the set, but be sure to ask to borrow sunglasses if that will help you feel most comfortable. This scene transitions with a surprise moment.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Oh, no - Tom wasn't expecting these 3 to actually talk to him! But who are they really?

Making new friends can be scary at first!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with a surprise moment with some fighting sounds. Be ready to say "hello" to the cast, too! This scene moves into a fun song with minimal lighting effects.



Tom isn't sure what to think about this whole thing... maybe he'll learn something about NOUNS while he figures it out....

It can be hard to get used to new things that come as a surprise!

Sensory-rich moments:

This song stays fairly consistent and contains a few sound effects. The lights at the back of the stage fade on and off periodically. The scene transitions with a quick end and the lights at the back of the stage getting slightly brighter.



Do you think Tom is relaxed enough to find the MAGIC in the NUMBER 3?

What fun tricks do you know to remember math facts?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song starts off softly, then gains energy and builds to the end. There are increased lighting effects contained on the stage, including more lights from the back of the stage. Don't forget to ask for sunglasses if you need them! And don't forget to help this rockin' team count by 3's! This song ends softly the way it starts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Now, Tom knows a thing or two about women's journey to SUFFRAGE!

How do we look for opportunities to fight for each others' rights to true equality?

Sensory-rich moments:

This jazzy song is a bit more active with continued use of the lights at the back of the stage. It ends as smoothly as it starts and moves quickly into the next song.



Have you ever met anyone who keeps ADJECTIVES in their backpack? Well, now you have.....

Everyone finds ways to keep important reminders nearby.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This song is fairly mellow with moments of sound effects/surprises. The lights coming from the back of the stage are used but are slightly softer than in previous songs. The song ends easily, and if you're chosen to participate in the song about BILL, you're moment is about to happen!



Have you met Tom's new friend, BILL?

Who knew learning about how laws are made could be so fun?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song is our first big audience participation moment!! Even if you're not on stage, feel free to dance and sing along in your seats! The lights at the back of the stage continue to fade in and out, and this song has longer talking moments throughout it. It ends with a slight lights up moment.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Tom is really picking up some great tips for teaching his new students - take a listen to how interesting the PREAMBLE actually is.....

Not all subjects have to be boring.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This song is catchy and fairly consistent. It starts and ends smoothly with very few lighting effects besides some minor lighting from the back of the stage. If you're chosen to participate in the 5's song, your moment is coming up next!



Remember when we were counting by 3's? Well, Tom is super zippy while he plays with the team using the NUMBER 5!

Who else can count like that while playing fast games? Can you keep up?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song brings up the energy with more chaos on stage. It's also really fast, and the lighting movement contained on stage matches it. We have glasses if you need them! You get to dance from your seats, and if you're chosen to participate during CIRCULATION, it's about that time next!



If your blood isn't pumping after that last song, you should probably check your CIRCULATION.....

What's your favorite way to stay active?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song contains more colorful lighting shifts contained on stage. This is another big one for audience participation, but even if you're not on stage or dancing next to an actor, dance your heart out in your seats!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



I hope Tom takes a deep breath before he starts talking about using PRONOUNS!

It's a beautiful day to respect each other's pronouns!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is another zippy song with fun energy! Lighting is mild in this musical number and it starts and ends smoothly.



Oof - GRAVITY is really messing with this group.....

How do we react when things fall down?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song is very goofy with a lot of "oops" moments with things....and people....falling down and bumping into each other. There are more colorful lighting shifts in this song, and the lighting intensifies some to conclude the song.



Tom is really getting the hang of this whole jazzy teaching thing - enjoy the ride through the CONJUNCTION JUNCTION.....

Have you ever gotten jazzy to teach someone something new?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song has more active lighting movement contained on the stage, as well as more singing from the front of the stage. There are some quick lighting shifts as dialogue moments interrupt the song briefly. The song ends with a beautiful belted note to finish it off.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Have you met Tom's friend, JANET? She's out of this world.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This is the most active lighting in the show - we've dimmed the effects and contained them on the stage, but if you need sunglasses to help keep you comfortable, just let us know! This song also has a cool audience engagement opportunity with a big "planet" that you may get to catch and safely toss back to one of our actors!



If that last song doesn't make you throw out a hearty INTERJECTION, we don't know what will....

What is the most creative reaction you've ever heard?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song has moderate lighting shifts and some louder reaction moments to go with the theme of the song. It ends with more singing directly from the front of the stage with slightly more intense lighting.



Tom isn't quite ready for his new friends to leave, but can he convince them to sing his favorite song before they go?

What song do you think was written about you?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song is a soft ending to the production with mild lighting effects contained on the stage that build to the end.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Do you think Tom is all ready now for his first day of school? Let's encourage him together so he feels all our support!

How do we help teachers feel supported in school?

Sensory-rich moments:

This final moment starts with the lighting becoming darker with the lights at the back of the stage on. After Tom engages with the audience one last time, the lights will quickly turn off. They'll come back on for the cast to come out for their final bows - let them know you enjoyed the show!

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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