

SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sun, Oct 27 at 4 PM

Sponsored by



Book, Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing

Adapted from the book GRACE FOR PRESIDENT by Kelly DiPucchio, Illustrations by LeUyen Pham, © 2012 Kelly DiPucchio, LeUyen Pham | By special arrangement with Gurman Agency LLC.

Presented by:



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

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Tammy Stringer & Richard Viola

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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 *Grace for President*



Welcome to Woodrow Wilson Elementary School! These students are ready to learn today....maybe more than they realize.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This inspiring production contains mild to moderate lighting shifts throughout it, and about halfway through, there are some opportunities for you to participate from the audience! As always, we've made adjustments as needed to help support you, but if you need additional assistance during the show, please don't hesitate to let us know!



Meet Mrs. Barrington and her students! Let's find out what they're learning about today....

How do we support kids as individual learners in classroom setting?

Sensory-rich moments:

The opening scene begins with a school bell, lighting shifts, and marching drums as the cast enters the stage. They briefly kick around a soccer ball before starting the first cute song, and the background music continues into the dialogue. The song resumes to move into the next scene.



Since the class is learning about elections, let's meet some of our past Presidents! Grace has a very interesting question, though.

What does it look like when we genuinely give everyone an equal opportunity to be seen and heard?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song contains more significant lighting shifts with more activity at the front of the stage. The song pauses multiple times for dialogue and builds with the cast to the end. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Grace has an announcement!

It takes bravery to stand up and be the true voice of the people.

Sensory-rich moments:

This revisits our opening song with some lighting shifts and transitions into the next scene with a school bell sound and an on-stage blackout.



Grace has quite the list of qualifications - do you think she'll be ready to lead her class?

Qualifications are important, but what else should we consider when choosing our leaders?

Sensory-rich moments:

This mini-scene contains lighting shifts and an "oops" moment. It moves into the next scene with music and lighting shifts.



Grace is already starting off right by connecting with her classmates, or constituents!

The only way to represent the people is to listen to the people!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a school bell moment and a clean-up moment, and it transitions into the next scene with mild music and more significant lighting/set shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Mrs. Barrington really knows how to bring the fun to learning about democracy!

When learning is engaging and we change things up, everyone can win!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with cast-made rhythms that build, and it transitions into a rap song with more significant lighting shifts and dancing at the front of the stage. The house lights will be on to help buffer the lighting shifts, but remember, we have sunglasses if you need them to be more comfortable!



Uh-oh, Grace has an opponent in the election... What does everyone think about Thomas?

How do we keep competition respectful but still compete?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a shouting moment and has a song with more significant lighting shifts. The song builds in energy and speed to the end. The scene continues after the song and transitions into the next with a school bell and music.



Grace is worried about her qualifications against Thomas'.

How do we help each other see how wonderful we all are instead of comparing ourselves to everyone else?

Sensory-rich moments:

This mini-scene is mild and moves into the next song with a lighting shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Where are the girls??

Equal representation matters so very much! What do you want to see in the leaders that are supposed to be your voice?

Sensory-rich moments:

This ballad has some mild lighting shifts and transitions into the next scene with an on-stage blackout and set shift.



So, how exactly does voting work? The electoral college can be confusing...

How do we learn more about how elections actually work?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a longer musical number with lighting shifts with some dancing at the front of the stage. It builds to the end and transitions into the next scene with an on-stage blackout.



It's time for Grace and Thomas to go after those votes. Who do you think is really listening to the people?

Do we make promises to keep, or promises to win votes?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting, a clean-up moment, and a school bell. It transitions into the next scene with an on-stage blackout and music.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Apparently boys stick together...

Do we vote based on similar characteristics, similar interests, or something else?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with playground activity and background sounds, and it moves into a fun musical number with more lighting shifts and playground play. There is a swing on stage that does not come out over the audience. This scene transitions into the next one with some brief shouting, music, and playground play.



Grace tries one more time to make sure voices are heard for action.....

Does loud always mean heard?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting, background music, and brief, significant lighting shifts. It transitions into the next scene with music, set shifts, and an on-stage blackout. There are some red lights that circle into the audience from up above. We have sunglasses if you need them!



It's time for the election!

How do we make those final decisions for who will represent our voices?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with red lighting that comes out into the audience from above, and the cast begins with chants for votes. They'll come out into the house, moving up the stairs. They really want your votes! They'll also be singing, Then will transition onto the stage to start the election.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Let the voting begin!

Who do you want to vote for, and why?

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a longer musical number working through the votes. It contains multiple moments of chanting, lighting shifts, and it moves in and out of singing and dialogue. It slows down at the end with slow-motion movement before the celebration moment at the end. There is a brief musical number at the end of this scene once the winner is announced.



Grace had a Star-Spangled Idea, and she WON!
What will the class get to do next?

Keep going after the things you know will make the world a better place!!!

Sensory-rich moments:

This ballad contains lighting shifts and builds in energy to the end of the show. There is a brief, muted firework sound effect with lighting shifts on the back of the stage. After a brief on-stage blackout, there is a curtain call and a quick musical number to close out 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.

