

# HOW I BECAME A PIRATE PARENT TIPSHEET

*Dallas Children's Theater welcomes all kids and families to our performances, but we know that some families hesitate to bring their children to live theater without knowing how they might react. Our sensory-friendly performances are designed to be a safe and accepting environment for children with sensory sensitivities.*

## HERE ARE SOME POINTS ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE:

- There is a Social Story on our website that may help you prepare your child for what to expect when you come to DCT to see HOW I BECAME A PIRATE.
- We will have some activities in the lobby an hour before the show. Families are encouraged to come early and participate.
- At the Box Office, we will have a sign-up list for "Birthdays". If your child has a birthday in July, you can put their name on the list. Before the second act begins, some of the actors will read the names on the list, inviting those children to come stand in front of the stage. Then we will sing happy birthday to them.
- The seating for the show will be general seating.
- There will be helpers stationed in the theater and lobby. They will be wearing white shirts and a badge that says "Helper."
- Children too large for the baby-changing station can be changed on a full-size, cushioned mat located in our production wing restroom. Please ask any helper in a white shirt to direct you to that restroom.
- During the performance, if your child needs to take a break from the show, you can come to the lobby where you can view a live video feed of the show on a monitor or you can go to a Quiet Room.
- The house lights will be partially on during the show so the theater will not be totally dark. Stage lights and sound levels will be adjusted. Ear plugs will be available, too (ask at the Box Office). Children are free to speak and move while in their seats in reaction to the story being told onstage.
- There will be an intermission and families are welcome to purchase snacks from our concessions counter, or you can bring your own snacks. All food and beverages must be consumed in the lobby and are not allowed in the theater. Only bottled water is allowed in the theater.
- Our DCT Store will be open before and after the show so you can purchase items if you like.
- When the show ends, the actors will be in the lobby. Children can get autographs from the actors if they want to.
- To help us improve our sensory-friendly performances, we'd like to encourage all parents to complete the brief survey which you will be given with your program and to give us any feedback about your experience at DCT.
- We want you to have a good time at DCT and enjoy all of the pre-show activities and your time in your seats before the show. We would kindly ask you to remember that this performance welcomes people at all sensory levels and as such we ask you to be thoughtful of your neighbor when it comes to cell phone lights and loud sounds. Our goal is to create a wonderful experience for all. We thank you for helping us do just that.