



Get ready to see

Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In a Play!"

at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University

A social story to help families prepare for a visit to the theater

WHEELLOCK
FAMILY
THEATRE

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

I am going to see a play called
Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"
at Wheelock Family Theatre at
Boston University.



When I get to the theater, we will walk
through the lobby.



It might be crowded.

I can take deep breaths and be patient
as we move through the crowd.



In a play, people on stage tell a story -
right in front of us!

These people are called actors.



When I sit down in the theater I will see
the set. A set is an imaginary place,
built on the stage, to show where the
story happens.



The set for this play is a series of hills,
similar to the ones you might find in the
Elephant & Piggie books, and two flats
with cartoon pigs and elephants painted
on them.



This play is about two friends, Gerald the elephant who is usually nervous and can be easily afraid of the unknown...



...and Piggie, the pig, who is usually excited....



And don't forget the Squirrelles!

Every character is played by an actor!



This play is a musical and sometimes the story is told through singing...



...and dancing!



There are also live musicians playing the music. In this show the musicians are on stage.



Sometimes the sounds and music can get loud. If it is too loud for me I can always cover my ears...



...I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad, or with someone else who came with me to the theater.



If I need a break I can go into the lobby...



...or to a quiet, cozy space nearby.



If I need something to hold onto I can ask an usher for a squishy toy.



I will know that the play is about to start when the lights in the room get darker and the lights on the stage get brighter.

The audience will get very quiet. It is important that I try to be quiet during the show so I can hear everything.



At the beginning of our play the stage will be dark. Gerald and Piggie will enter and use flashlights to look for one another.

I know they are only pretending to be lost.



During the song "Swimmy Fancy" Gerald gets upset because he can't dance. He will throw a tantrum which might be scary.

I know the actor is only pretending to be upset.



To cheer up her friend Gerald, Piggie plays a trumpet. The sound might be loud. If I want, I can cover my ears.



Later in the show Piggie gets a new toy and she shares it with Gerald. One of our the Squirrelles goes into the house in the center aisle.

I know this is part of the play and she is very friendly!



While playing with the new toy Gerald accidentally breaks it and Piggie gets mad.

I know they are only actors and they are pretending.



Piggie realizes her toy is not broken but a toy that is supposed to "snap" and "break." Gerald gets sad because of how Piggie treats him.

I know they are only actors and they are only pretending.



Later in the show the characters on stage will ask the audience to participate in the show! The lights in the audience will come up.

They will ask you to clap...
...they will ask you to say "banana"....
...and they will ask you to wave your arms!



I can participate and play along with the actors ...



...or I can sit in my seat and watch.

I know either choice is okay!



The sounds may be loud and the action may be startling. If I need to I can cover my ears or leave the theater and take a break.



At the end of a scene or song some people will clap. Clapping tells the actors that I liked their performance.



If I want to clap I can.
If I don't want to clap I don't have to.

At the very end of the play all of the actors will come out on stage and bow.
This is called a curtain call.



I can clap. Clapping tells the actors I liked the show.



If I really like the show I can stand up and clap. This is called a standing ovation.



If the sound is too loud, I can always cover my ears.



If I feel anxious or upset I can take deep breaths to help me stay calm.



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I can hold hands with someone else who came with me to the theater.



After the show I will leave the theatre and move through the lobby. The lobby may be loud and crowded.



After I move through the lobby I will leave Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University.



Going to the theater is very exciting!

I hope I will have a great time when I go to see *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In a Play!"*



For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University please contact Jeri Hammond, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at JeriH@bu.edu or 617-353-1459.

