

Get ready to see

Billy Elliot The Musical

at Wheelock Family Theatre



A social story to help families prepare children*
for a visit to

Wheelock Family Theatre

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WHEELOCK
FAMILY
THEATRE

Affordable.
Professional.
Accessible.
Theatre for all Families and Children.

***PLEASE NOTE:**

Social stories were originally developed for children on the autism spectrum, but we have found that they are helpful for preparing any child who is very young or has never been to the theatre before. Wheelock Family Theatre offers a social story for each of our productions. We hope you will find them helpful!

I am going to see a play called
Billy Elliot The Musical
at Wheelock Family Theatre.



When I get to the theatre, we will walk
through the lobby. It might be crowded.

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



In a play, people on a stage tell
a story — right in front of us!
These people are called actors.



This play is about an 11-year-old boy named Billy. He lives in a town in England where most men work in a coal mine.



Billy wants to be a ballet dancer. But his family thinks he should become a coal miner.



This play is also a **musical**. That means that the characters talk, but they also sing and dance to tell the story.



Musicians sit under the stage, playing instruments for the singers and dancers. This is the **orchestra**.



Sometimes the music and the singing and dancing can be loud.

Sometimes I will hear sirens and other loud noises that help to tell the story.



If anything is too loud, 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 theatre.



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.

Sometimes in this play, people get angry and shout. Sometimes they punch and fight. Sometimes they use bad words.



In a some scenes, the air above the stage fills with smoke. I know this is a special kind of smoke used in plays, and everyone is safe.



If I feel scared or if things get too loud, I can always cover my ears.



Sometimes in the play, Billy talks with his mother. But she is actually dead.

These conversations are only happening in his imagination.



Even though I might be scared or sad, I know the actors are only pretending. I know that everyone is safe.

I can always hug or hold hands with my mom or dad



or with someone else who came with me to the theatre.



If I need to take a break, I can go into the lobby,



or go to a quiet, cozy space nearby.



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



At the end of a scene, 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.



In the middle of the play, we will have a break called **intermission**.

Lots of people will get up from their seats, and go back to the lobby.

During this time the lobby can get crowded and loud.

I can go to the lobby if I want to, but I don't **have** to.



I can also stay in my seat.
I can cover my ears.



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



Or I can go to a quiet, cozy space in a different room.



I can ask for a snack. I can eat my snack in the lobby or outdoors.

But there is no eating or drinking inside the theatre.



I can ask to use the bathroom if I need to.



If I am thirsty, I can ask to use the water fountain.



After intermission, everyone will come back to the theatre and sit down in their seats again.



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



It is important that I try to stay quiet, so I can hear everything.

The actors will come back on stage to finish telling the story.



At the very end of the play, all of the actors will come out on stage and bow.

This is called a **curtain call**.



People will clap a lot, so the actors will know how much they liked the play.



Sometimes people will stand up and clap.
Sometimes they will cheer.



If I want to clap or stand up or cheer, I can.
But I do not **have** to do any of these things.

When the play is over, we will
go back to the lobby. It might
be loud and crowded.



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



After this I will leave
Wheelock Family
Theatre.



Going to the theatre is very exciting!

I hope I will have a great
time when I go to see
Billy Elliot The Musical!



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For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre, please contact Peyton Pugmire, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at PPugmire@wheelock.edu or (617) 879-2148.

We hope you found this social story helpful!