

Get ready to see

Beauty and the Beast

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 find them helpful!

I am going to see a play called
Beauty and the Beast
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.



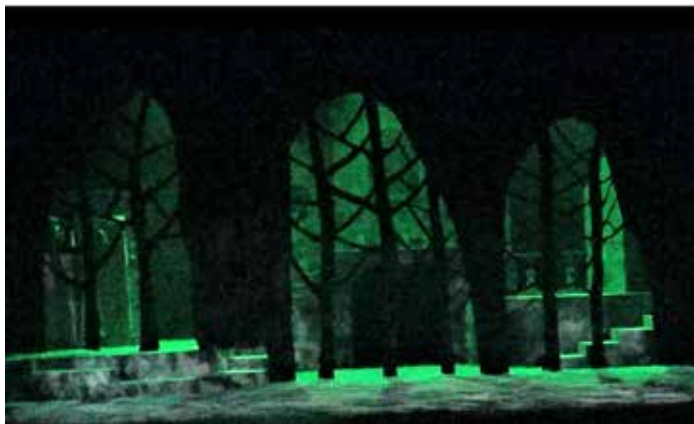
When I sit down in the theatre, I will see the set. A set is an imaginary place, built on the stage, to show where the story happens.

This play takes place in France a long time ago, in different locations including:

a small village,



the woods,



and a castle.



This play is a musical.

That means a lot of the story is told through singing and dancing.



Sometimes the singing can get loud.

There are other loud sounds in this play too, like: stomping, gunshots, roaring, shouting, howling, and metal mugs clinking together.

If anything is too much for me, I can always cover my ears or close my eyes.



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



If I need a break, I can go into the lobby —



or to a quiet, cozy space nearby.



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



This story is about a beautiful young woman named **Belle**



and a hairy **Beast** with a secret.



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.



Belle lives in the village with her father **Maurice**. He is an inventor.



Gaston is a man who lives in the village. He likes to hunt and he can be a bully.



Sometimes Gaston is mean to his friend **LeFou**.



Sometimes he shoots a gun.



But I know this is all just **pretend**.

Maurice gets attacked by wolves in the woods, but I know the wolves are dancers, just pretending to attack.

Maurice doesn't really get hurt.



The Beast can be loud and mean and scary, especially in the first half of the show.



I won't be afraid about this, because I know it is just pretend and no one is going to hurt me.

The actors who play Gaston and the Beast are nice, kind people in real life.



If I get scared, I can always cover my ears or close my eyes.



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



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



or 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.

The Beast lives in a castle in the woods.

Long ago, a magic spell turned all of his servants
into household objects, like:

a clock
(Cogsworth),



a candelabra
(Lumiere),



a feather duster
(Babbette),



a teapot and teacup
(Mrs. Potts and Chip),



and a wardrobe
(Madame de la Grande Bouche)



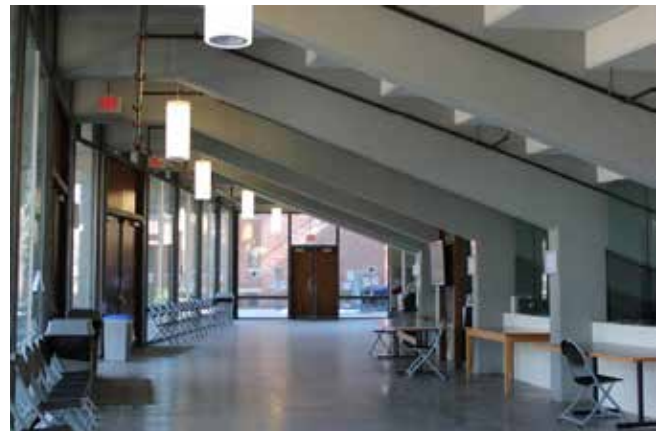
When magical things happen,
I may see flashing lights or smoke.

I know that this is special stage
smoke and there is no fire.
I will remember that the magic in
this story is only pretend.



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.



If things are too noisy,

I can cover my ears or
close my eyes.



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.



In the second half of the play, Gaston leads the villagers to the castle to kill the Beast, but I will not be scared.

I know that the villagers are actors, and they are only pretending to be angry and mean.



Near the end of the play,
Gaston and the Beast
will get into a big fight.



It will seem like they both died,
but I know this is only pretend.
and no one is really hurt or dead.

If I am nervous or sad, I
can always cover my ears
or close my eyes.



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



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

When the play is done, 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.



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



and go outside.



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



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
Beauty and the Beast.



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For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre, please contact Jeri Hammond, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at JHammond@wheelock.edu or (617) 879-1175.

We hope you found this social story helpful!