

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



I am going to see a play called A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD 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.

In this play, a musical, they will sing and dance!



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 spins and moves to help tell the story

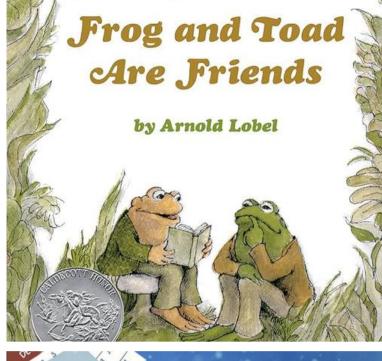
We can go inside Frog and Toad's homes and up to a big hill!





This play is based on the *Frog and Toad* books by Arnold Lobel.

I may have read this and already know the stories in this play!



Instead of as separate stories, they put some together to tell the story of a whole year!



This play also adds music, singing, and dancing to the stories!

I can see the musicians on stage.



Sometimes the music can be loud.

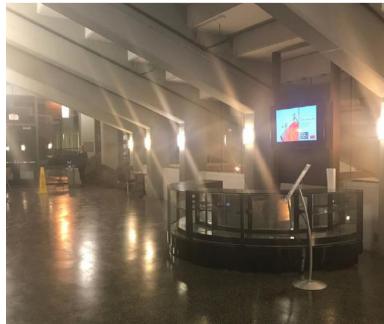
If it is too loud for me I can always cover my ears...



...I can hug or hold hands with the people 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 the play can be heard.



This play is about two best friends who live near each other and love to spend time together.

Their names are Frog and Toad.



This is Frog.

He is cheery and loves to have fun.



This is Toad.

He can be a worrywart, but will do anything for his friends.



Frog and Toad have other friends in their neighborhood, too.



These are the birds.

They fly south for the winter, but love to eat cookies with Frog and Toad.



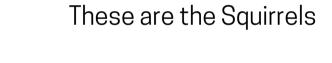
This is Mouse.

Mouse is always ready to help out.



These two are Turtle and Lizard.

They love to laugh.



The Squirrels love to play in leaves.

This is Snail.

They find their passion in delivering mail.







Finally, these are the moles!

They love to dig (and play in the snow!)



There is also a story in the show where Frog talks about himself and his parents.

Frog will pretend to be his dad. Two other actors will play his mom and Young Frog.



The actors in this play become many different characters!

I can try and spot them all!



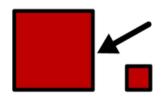
In the show, there may be moments that are scary.

In Frog's story, he talks about a Large and Terrible Frog.



There will be a big shadow on the back wall that represents the Large and Terrible Frog.

This is just a stage trick.







Really, the actor is just standing in front of a light. He is just a normal person.

How cool!





The is also some thunder and lightning in the story.

I will hear thunder and see lights flash. This is all pretend. There is no storm.

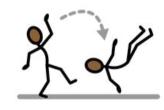




Frog and Toad also go sledding down a hill.

How fun!

They go over a bump and Frog falls off!





I may feel worried, but I know that this is all pretend.

The actor playing Frog is just fine and will appear again soon.





If anything else in the story makes me feel sad or mad or scared, I can ask an adult for support.

I can also take a deep breath or 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.

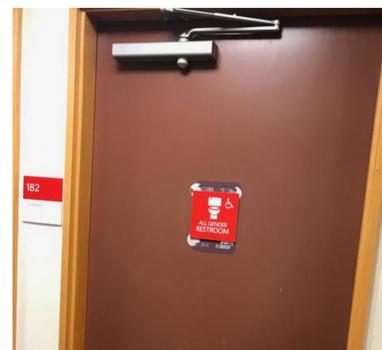
If I don't want to clap I don't have to.



This play does **not** have an intermission.



If I need the bathroom, I should ask the people I came with to bring me.



I can also get a drink of water or have a snack during a break.



At the 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.



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 A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD.



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.



BOSTON UNIVERSITY