Social Story™

to improve your child’s understanding of expectations during unfamiliar events

My trip to Nashville Children’s Theatre
I am going to see a play at Nashville Children’s Theatre. When I get there, I will see a sign that says, “Nashville Children’s Theatre.”
When I go into the building, I will be in the Lobby. I will try to stay with my family or group. There might be a lot of people. They will be there to see the play, too.
We might have to wait in line to buy tickets. I will try to wait nicely. Waiting nicely means keeps my hands and feet to myself and talking to my family or group in a quiet voice. A quiet voice means my family or group can hear me but the people waiting near me in line cannot.
Before the play, there will be different activities I can do in the lobby. If I see something I want to try, I can ask my mom or dad. Volunteers with an NCT name badge can explain how to do each activity, or I can read the directions and look at the pictures posted next to each activity.
When it’s time to go into the theatre, there may be a line at the door. I will try to wait nicely in line for my turn to go through the door.
When I get to the door, an usher will tear my ticket. An usher is someone who can help you find your way. After the ticket is torn, they will give part of it back to me, my mom, or dad.

My ticket will tell me what seat to sit in. An usher can help me and my family find our seats.
After I sit in my seat, people might need to walk in front of me to get to their seats. I will try to be helpful by moving my feet out of the way. It is a small space so they may accidently touch me when they walk by.
I will know the play is about to start when someone stands on stage.

During the play, the lights will turn off to help everyone see what is happening on stage. I will try to be respectful by staying in my seat, sitting quietly, and watching the play.
During the play, people on stage will be wearing costumes. They are called actors.

I will know the play is over when the actors bow. If I liked the play, I can clap my hands. People around me might clap their hands, too. The clapping might be loud, but it won’t last long. If it is too loud, I can cover my ears until it is over.
Sometimes there might be something that surprises me. An usher standing near the stage will hold up an orange light before something surprising is about to happen.

If I’m feeling scared, I can cover my ears or eyes, hold my mom or dad’s hand, or hug my mom or dad until the surprising part is over.
If I see something I like, I can clap my hands or laugh. Other people sitting by me might clap and laugh at things too! Sometimes the play might be loud.
If it gets too loud I can cover my ears or eyes, put on my head phones, or hug my mom or dad.

If I am feeling nervous I can cover my eyes, hold my mom or dad’s hand, or hug my mom or dad.
If the play is too loud for me, I can tell my mom or dad and we can sit in the comfort room in the back of the theatre. I will still be able to see the show but it won’t be as loud.

If I just need a break, I can tell my mom or dad and they can take me to the lobby. I can come back in when I am ready.
If I need to go to the bathroom, mom or dad will help me find the bathroom. After I go to the bathroom, I can go back to the play.

If I get thirsty, mom or dad will help me find a water fountain. After I get a drink of water, I can go back to the play.
When the show is over and it is time to leave, the lights over the seats will turn on. Everyone will stand up and walk to the exits in the back. It might be crowded. I will try to wait my turn and stay with my family or group to exit the theatre.
When I am respectful by staying in my seat, sitting quietly, and watching the play, my mom and dad will be so proud of me! I might like coming to a play at the Nashville Children’s Theatre.
Nashville Children’s Theatre
25 Middleton St.
Nashville, TN 32710
(p)615-254-9103
info@nashvillechildrenstheatre.org
www.NashvilleCT.org

Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD)
1211 21st Avenue South, Ste. 110
Nashville, TN 37212
(p)615-322-6027
TRIADOOutreach@vanderbilt.edu
http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/triad/community/