



A Parent's Guide to Sensory-Friendly Performances



Saturday, Oct. 21 at 11 a.m.

A special thank you to this show's sponsors: BlackArch, the Leon Levine Foundation - Sandra and Leon Levine, SentryOne, Robinson Bradshaw, Rob and Kate Buckfelder, Brian and Laura Murdock, Ed and Florence Kim and Robin and Bill Branstrom.



Precious Developments
Where We Celebrate Every One

Are you ready for a magical experience?

*Winds in the east, mist coming in.
Like somethin' is brewin' and 'bout to begin.*

One of the most popular Disney stories of all time is capturing hearts in a whole new way: as a "Practically Perfect" musical! Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, Mary Poppins delighted audiences on Broadway. Now, the mysterious nanny flies into Children's Theatre of Charlotte, where she'll use a "spoonful of sugar" and a little magic to help the troubled Banks family come together again. Mary Poppins turns England upside down with the help of Bert, Mrs. Corry, park statues and other friends. Join us and the Banks family for a **supercalifragilisticexpialidocious** time!



A bit about sensory-friendly performances at Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that “softens” the environment. What does that mean exactly? In general, we make the theatre available to everyone, including those who may need more flexibility to help manage all of the sensory experiences that come along with attending a performance.

Here are some of the adjustments Children's Theatre of Charlotte is making to create a more sensory-friendly environment tailored to each show:

- Lights in the theatre will stay low during the show, instead of turning all the way off.
- We will lower the sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets for the sensory-friendly performances so families have more room to move as needed.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- Someone will sit at the front of the stage with glow sticks to help give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing. Raising one light means there's a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting).
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

We've also provided several guides to help prepare your family for your visit to Children's Theatre of Charlotte - a visit guide that walks your family through our facility, a child guide to go with each performance, and a coordinating parent guide like this one to help parents support their children's learning and experience in the theatre. We want you to have the opportunity to enjoy the theatre with your family, so with that, please enjoy the show!

*Yours truly,
Your friends at Children's Theatre of Charlotte*

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in *Mary Poppins*



Welcome to Cherry Tree Lane! If you're looking for an incredible adventure, you're in the right place! Sit back and enjoy getting to know the Banks family and Mary Poppins, of course!

Sensory-rich moments: This is a very dynamic show with lots of movement and special effects. There are moments of teasing, a few arguments and some times of stress, all surrounded by lots of music and fun throughout the show. There's also smoke from a smoke machine in the theatre and several scenes with open umbrellas.

Can you spot Jane and Michael on the run? They may be trying to escape, but they're in for a big surprise soon.

Running away isn't always the best idea when we want some kind of change. How can we deal with that and stay safe at the same time?

Sensory-rich moments: This is a busy scene, and the children get into some trouble along the way with the police officer.

Meet Mary Poppins! How do you think she fits the description Jane and Michael prepared? *How do we listen to the things our children tell us about what they really want?*

Sensory-rich moment: The children appear to be under a spell at one point.



It's time for the children to get to know Mary Poppins.

How would our children describe a "Practically Perfect" caregiver?

Sensory-rich moment: This scene contains some magical effects and a busy transition into the next scene.



This may look like an ordinary park, but wait and see what happens when Mary Poppins arrives!

Our children can use their imagination to create an adventure anywhere!

Sensory-rich moments: This is a busy scene with lots of movement and dancing. This scene transitions into the next with the start of a thunderstorm.



The children had an interesting day, but what will their father think about it?
How do we help our children be who they want to be?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene contains some active movement, lighting changes and a few tense family moments.



Jane and Michael in the kitchen? Looks like they're up to something mischievous or perhaps magical?

What can we do to make the things we have to do more fun and engaging with our children? Also, It's important children understand they only take medicine when they are sick or if they need it.

Sensory-rich moments: This scene contains many moments of things breaking as well as louder sounds/singing. The children are also given medicine seemingly for fun.



It's off to the bank for George. He has so many important decisions to make!
How do we teach our children what it means to be a good person? Do we have to have a lot of money to be good?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene is visually busy with lighting changes and movement around the set.



Feed the birds for just tuppence a bag!

How do we show kindness to each other, as well as to animals?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene is somewhat emotional.



So many letters, but what will they spell? Wait and see - it's supercalif....well, just wait and see!

Learning to read really can be fun - what words can you all find in SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS?
Sensory-rich moment: This is a bright and colorful scene with singing, dancing and overall activity that builds throughout the scene.



Keep an eye on this fragile family heirloom. *What things do we have that hold special meaning to us? Why are they so important in our lives?*

Sensory-rich moments: There are “be careful” moments in this scene, along with emotional family moments.



We like to play with our toys, but what happens when they want to play with us? *Kids can be rough, even when they don't mean to be.*

Sensory-rich moments: This is a scarier scene in which toys come to life. There are multiple light changes and increasing movement throughout the scene as well.



There's Bert on the rooftop with Mary Poppins. Do you think the winds have changed? Take a look at what happens next!

Change is hard - how do we help our children when something has to be different?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene includes interesting special effects - be sure to look up.



INTERMISSION

But don't be gone long - there's even more magic and fun coming up in the second act!



So much hustle and bustle! The Banks' household is getting ready for a visitor, but who will it be?

It's important children understand they only take medicine when they're sick or if they need it.

Sensory-rich moments: This scene contains an intimidating character who gives the children medicine as a disciplinary tactic. The scene ends with the children running away.



Check it out - Bert has a red kite! What will he do next with it?

Who can our children turn to when they need help?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene contains lots of singing and dancing with movement that builds throughout the scene.



Uh-oh, Mary Poppins and Ms. Andrews finally meet. What do you think will happen next?

Do we teach our children to be the "Spoonful of Sugar" or the "Brimstone and Treacle?"

Sensory-rich moments: This is a strong scene that contains fighting and taking medicine that seems poisonous.



The Banks family is about to learn a valuable lesson.

How do we figure out what's most important in our lives?

Sensory-rich moments: This is an emotional scene.



There's Bert up on the roof again. What's he going to do this time?

You can make any job fun if you put your mind to it!

Sensory-rich moments: This scene contains lots of dancing, music, singing and fun that builds through the transition into the next scene.



Remember the family heirloom? What do you think is going to happen to it?
How do we react when valuable things break by accident?

Sensory-rich moments: Something breaks in this scene, and it's an emotional scene.



Now it's time for Ms. Banks to learn something important from Jane, Michael and Mary Poppins!

How do we encourage our children to go after their dreams and stand up for themselves?



Mr. Banks heads back to the bank.
What do you think will happen when he gets there?

Sometimes, we brace ourselves for the worst, but do we think about what else might happen?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene transitions into a visually stimulating set with moving lights and props.



The children find a clue from Mary Poppins.

How do we help our children say goodbye to someone they love?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene transitions into a busy closing scene with lots of music, lights and activity.



We don't want to spoil the surprises at the end of this amazing production! Just make sure you're looking up to see all the magic that is Mary Poppins!



Thanks for joining us at Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance!

Visit us at ctcharlotte.org for more information about other sensory-friendly performances available to you and your family this year!