SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

PARENT’S GUIDE

Sunday, October 13 at 7 p.m.
Peter Pan

A Musical Based on the Play by Sir J.M. Barrie | Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh | Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden & Adolph Green | Music by Morris (Moose) Charlap | Additional Music by Jule Styne | Originally Directed, Choreographed and Adapted by Jerome Robbins | Peter Pan is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) | All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

About the show
Fly to new heights in the Tony Award-winning musical that never gets old. Join Peter as he whisks the Darling children off to Neverland in a story filled with magic, delight and adventure. Together, with the help of everyone’s favorite fairy sidekick Tinkerbell, they’ll face-off against crocodiles, evil pirates and the villainous Captain Hook. With a sprinkle of pixie dust and a dash of imagination, Peter Pan will awaken the child in us all.

Show sponsors

Special thanks
to Julie Higginbotham of Precious Developments. Julie has worked as our consultant in the creation and preparation of our sensory-friendly performances. We’re grateful for this valued partnership.

Charlotte Ballet, Central Piedmont Community College, Imagination Stage, Rob Hunter and Preferred Arms. Flying Effects provided by ZFX, Inc.

What to expect at a sensory-friendly performance
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. Below 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 be 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). Raising two lights means a more intense sensory-rich moment is about to occur.
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

Support materials for you
We provide several guides to help prepare your family for your visit:

The visit guide that walks your family through our facility.

The child guide goes with each performance.

The parent guide like this one helps 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!
Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in *Peter Pan*

Get ready for an amazing story with a magical adventure!

*What’s your favorite part of reading or telling stories with your children? What’s their favorite part?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
The opening scene is somewhat busy, and it transitions into a set change.

This production is full of dynamic musical numbers, exciting but funny fight scenes, and of course, flying!

Meet Wendy, John, and Michael Darling. They love to pretend, and they don’t know that they’re in for an adventure of a lifetime....

*Children imitate things they see around them. They learn so many things through pretend play!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene introduces a large, friendly dog puppet.

Why is Mother so worried?

*How do we talk to kids about how to stay safe, especially with strangers?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains some worry about danger for children.
Meet Peter Pan! He’s so happy to be who he is that he just has to...CROW!

*It’s so important for kids to be happy with themselves and be able to see all the good things about them!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains some flying, twinkly sounds, and an energetic song.

Who wants to fly? The Darling children, of course! Do you think they can do it?

*Having a positive perspective on things can really help children be brave.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains flying, of course! It also contains a busier, more significant transition into the next scene.

Meet Tiger Lily and her Pounce crew. These girls are so strong!

*How do we show children they can be strong, but graceful?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene starts with the ensemble coming out into the audience area with lovely, slow-moving animal puppets. The cast is also making calling sounds to each other, creating a lot of rhythmic sounds with their bodies and sticks, and briefly fighting with each other. There is also soft thunder.
Now we get to meet the Lost Boys! But they’re not there for long before they have a visitor....

*We don’t have to be related to someone to consider them to be family.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains a busy transition into the next one with some running and shouting. Some of the Pirate cast comes into the front part of the audience.

Captain Hook and his Pirate crew are quite an interesting bunch! What does he want with Peter Pan?

*We meet all kinds of different people in our lives!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains some sword fighting, some pirate shouting, and a fun musical number with some lighting shifts. There is also a very brief moment using fake smoke that stays mostly contained on the stage and some crocodile/ticking sounds.

Tiger Lily and Pounce have returned. This time, they may be causing a little trouble for those Lost Boys....

*When kids play together, they sometimes pretend to be good guys and bad guys. How do we help them learn through that play?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains more rhythmic dancing and calling within the ensemble, as well as some lighting shifts, shouting, and busy transitions. There is also some more thunder and lightening onstage.
Uh-oh....the Lost Boys seem to be hiding something from Peter Pan....

*How do we help children talk about mistakes they make so they can learn from them?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains brief flying with a pretend arrow shot, as well as some mild crowing and a fun musical number. There is also a more significant thunder and lightning moment onstage.

Captain Hook is back, and his Pirates are trying to help him defeat Peter Pan! What do they think will work?

*Problem-solving is such an important skill to teach kids so they can work through struggles.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains a musical number with light shifts. There is also a busy transition with some shouting as the cast comes up into the house through the front, and other cast members come down from the back of the house.

Who wants to grow up? Not these kids, that’s for sure!

*It’s so hard to grow up! How do we make sure we keep having fun along the way?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains a fun musical number that builds in energy as it moves along, followed by a busy transition.
Peter Pan is so very clever!

*Helping children tell jokes and pretend helps to expand their imagination and creativity!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains an echo effect, some crowing, some shouting, and a brief fight scene that will move into intermission.

It’s time for a quick break! Get ready to settle in for the rest of this story right after a brief intermission.....

*Enjoy a stretch break while we get ready for the rest of the show! We’ll bring you back into the start of the second act so you’ll be ready for it.*

Welcome back to the show! What do you think will happen next?

*Asking children what they expect in a story helps them put together a bigger picture and start to think more creatively.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
There is some music as the show transitions into the second act with a brief set change.
Now that Peter Pan and Tiger Lily have defeated Captain Hook together, they’re ready to join forces with everyone else!

_We don’t have to be just like everyone else to make friends and work together!_

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains an active transition as the ensemble grows, as well as a busy musical number with lots of rhythmic moments and fun dancing.

It’s bedtime in Neverland, and Wendy remembers what it was like at home.

_What do we do when we feel homesick?_

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene transitions with the cast exiting the theatre through the audience space. As the next scene begins, cast members re-enter somewhat loudly from the back of the house.

Uh-oh....it looks like Captain Hook is about to do something really sneaky and unsafe....

_How do children understand the importance of medication and how to keep it safe?_

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene begins with the cast re-entering from the back of the theatre and contains a moment in which Hook puts poison into medicine.
Look, it’s Tinkerbell!! What is she trying to tell Peter Pan?

*How do we teach children that it’s never safe to take someone else’s medication, no matter what?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains flying, some light changes, and some brief, soft lights that come out into the audience. It also contains an unsafe moment when Tinkerbell drinks the poison. It transitions into an audience engagement moment before moving into the next scene that starts at the front of the stage.

Wow, Captain Hook really looks unhappy! What is he planning to do next with the children?

*How do we help children stay safe while trying to understand someone else’s situation?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This is a busy scene that starts with a song toward the front of the stage that transitions into a set change. There is also some shouting and a musical number with some light shifts.

Who will save the day for the Darling children and the Lost Boys? You’ll have to keep watching to find out what happens next....

*It’s important for children to learn that we’re there to help them through tough situations.*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
The energy in this scene builds with shouting, sword fighting, crowing, fighting, and a not-quite-death scene. There are also some lighting shifts and a fake explosion offstage, as well as another moment with crocodilie/ticking sounds.
Wow, what a story! But wait....there’s more in store for Peter Pan...

*How do we celebrate our children’s accomplishments when they are brave or learn to do something new?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**
This scene contains some crowing at the front of the stage, a set change into the final scene, and more flying. The final scene transitions into the curtain call in which there’s a brief special flight over the audience!

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Thanks for joining us at Children’s Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance. Learn more and buy tickets to other sensory-friendly performances at [ctcharlotte.org](http://ctcharlotte.org).

Click on **Shows & Tickets** and look for **Accessibility & Inclusion**.

**Upcoming sensory-friendly performances include:**

- **The Invisible Boy**  
  Sunday, November 10 @ 4 p.m.

- **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical**  
  Sunday, December 8 @ 4 p.m.

- **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs**  
  Sunday, January 12 @ 4 p.m.

- **Akeelah and the Bee**  
  Sunday, February 16 @ 7 p.m.

- **GRIMMZ Fairy Tales**  
  Sunday, March 8 @ 4 p.m.

- **Dragons Love Tacos**  
  Sunday, April 26 @ 4 p.m.

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