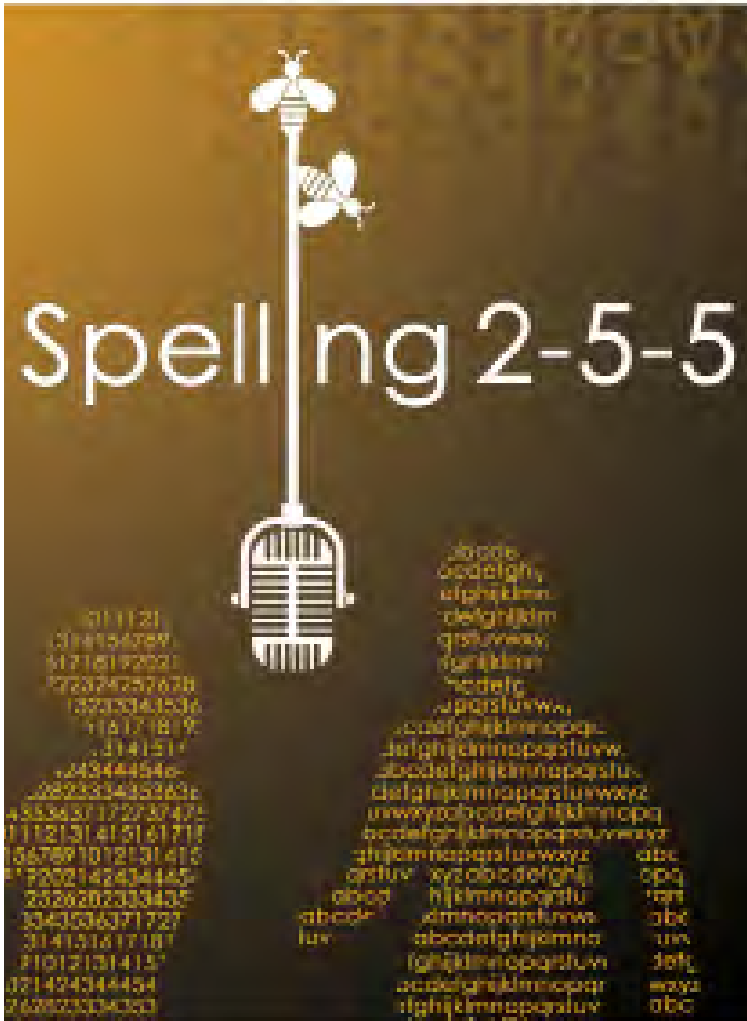


SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE



PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m.



Spelling 2-5-5

By Jennifer Overton

About the show

Have you ever wanted to be a star? Simon's a terrific speller, and now he has a chance to shine as a contestant on a televised spelling bee. Simon's brother, Jake, who has autism, unwittingly reveals he's also a gifted speller in a way that's uniquely his. Sibling rivalry takes center stage as Simon faces choices about his role as the protective big brother and his desire to gain celebrity status.

Show sponsors

Bank of America, Atrium Health, Lise & Travis Hain, Anita & Bruce LaRowe, Mary & Doug McCurry, and The Watts Family. Adventurer series sponsored by: BlackArch.

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.

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 *Spelling 2-5-5*



Meet Simon and Jake! These brothers spend a lot of time together, but they're definitely unique guys....

Each family member has different needs. How do we try to balance them all together?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains an alarm clock sound, the start of a meltdown for Jake, and a school bell sound.

This show also uses music for the transitions between scenes.



Simon and Jake are off to school. Simon is excited to hear about the upcoming spelling bee show, but then Gordon comes to cause Jake some trouble....

How do we help our children stand up for themselves and for others?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains PA system sounds and a short bullying moment.



Jake and Simon's mother is working hard to meet everyone's needs and keep their lives running as smoothly as possible.

It's hard when everyone's strengths and needs seem so different!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's back to school for Simon and Jake, but that bully Gordon is taking things too far!

Who are the people in our children's lives who can help manage tough situations?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contained PA system sounds and a significant bullying scene.



Jake and Simon's mother is doing her best to fix the bullying situation at school. Simon is feeling a lot of pressure, too.

What tools can we use to help our children handle the world around them?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some strong discussion moments and an audio recording.



Simon is off to try out for the spelling bee show, and Laurie makes a cool connection with Jake!

Learning about someone's interests and strengths is a great way to start a new friendship!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains PA system sounds.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's time for Simon to show off his spelling talents!

How do we focus on our children's individual strengths?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some mild shouting moments and building background music. It transitions into a brief scene with recorded voices.



Laurie is so excited to share Jake's unique talent with his family, but what happens when Simon realizes that his talent might not be his own?

What do we do when our children share similar interests and still recognize them as individuals?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene ends with a very upset Simon.



Jake and Simon's mother is so proud to see both of her boys participating together in the spelling bee!

How do you think the boys' mother feels about how Jake and Simon will handle the spelling bee?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a brief PA system sound.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Simon is up first! He's ready to go, but what happens when it's Jake's turn to come out for his audition?

Sometimes, doing the right thing makes us remember our own strengths.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting, PA system sounds, and a bullying scene that results in a meltdown.



Simon and Jake may be back into their comic book routine, but their relationship has changed for the better!

Going through something hard doesn't mean we can't learn and grow from it!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains voice audio recordings, audio narration, and music to transition into the end of the production.

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

We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.

For details, visit: ctcharlotte.org/online/article/sensory-friendly-performances.



ctcharlotte.org