



*Opportunity in
North Central Massachusetts*

Social Story: Going to the Theatre at The Mount



Achieve with us.

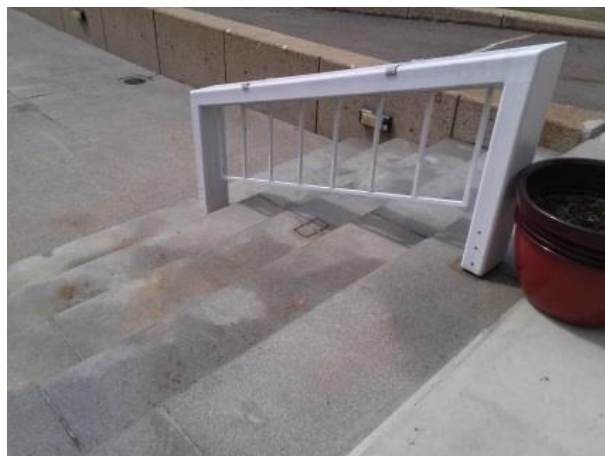
A Social Story can be a written or visual guide used to help people on the autism spectrum learn about social situations that they wouldn't understand naturally. The goal of a Social Story is to share accurate social information in a patient and reassuring manner in order to teach each individual the skills they need to get on with everyday life and become productive members of their community. The Arc of Opportunity will provide a social story for The Theatre at the Mount's upcoming sensory-friendly performance of Annie detailing the entire experience from walking up to the front door of the theatre, purchasing or picking up your tickets, choosing your seat, finding the bathrooms...everything! Audience members can review this at home with their family before leaving for the theatre so they know exactly what to expect to help make it a fun and pleasurable experience for everyone.

Watching a play in a theatre is like seeing a video on T.V. at home, except everything is bigger:

There is a very big stage with people called actors wearing costumes, louder sound, and lots of people sitting in rows of chairs.



When I get there, I will walk up the stairs or use the handicap ramp to enter the building through the glass doors.



I may have to stand in line to get my ticket for the play.



When I have my ticket, I will go down to the lobby. I can take the handicap ramp down to the lobby, or I can walk down the stairs.



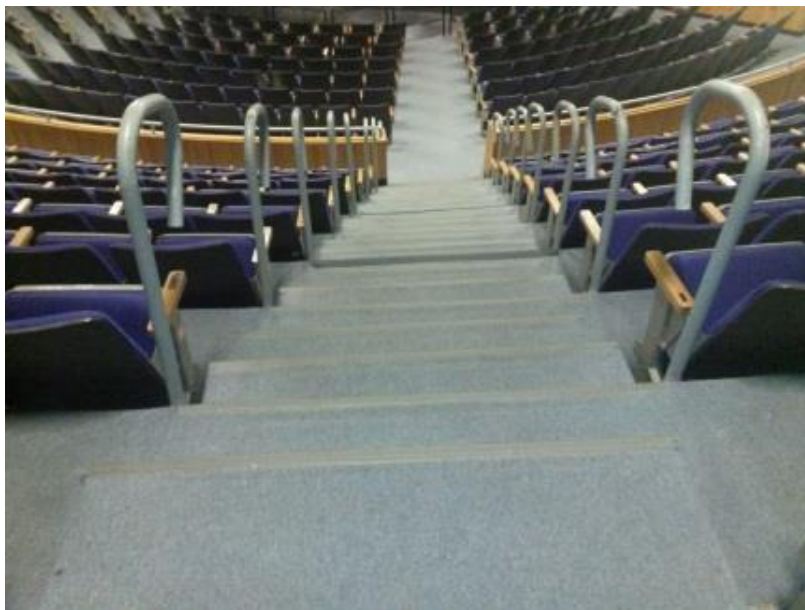
There might be colorful objects or statues on tables in the lobby or paintings on the walls. I will use just my eyes to look at them.




If I need to use the restroom before the show, I will use the one located near the ticket office or I can ask the adult with me to help me follow the signs to the handicap restroom. After I use the restroom, I will walk back downstairs to wait in the lobby.



When it is time to locate my seat, I will give my ticket to an usher who will tear it in half and give it back to me. The usher will tell me which way to enter the theatre to locate my seat inside. I will go down some stairs to locate my seat. An usher will give me a program with information related to the show.



 THEATRE AT THE MOUNT 444 GREEN STREET GARDNER, MA 01440 TEL: 978-632-2403	ANNIE SAT, DEC 6, 2014 AT 2:00PM SECTION: Upper Center ROW: H SEAT: 113 \$10.00 per person
NO REFUNDS - NO EXCHANGES	

The number on my ticket tells me where I have to sit. My seat folds down. I keep my feet on the floor and do not kick the seat in front of me. Many people will come into the theatre and locate their seats while I wait for the play to begin.



The lights dim when the play is ready to start. I may hear announcements or music.

If the show sounds are too loud, I can use ear protection to cover my ears.

I stay in my seat during the show. If I have a question, I will ask it very quietly. I can clap at the end of a performance or a song



Quiet Time

Some shows have a 15 minute break called intermission. If the show I'm attending has intermission, I can remain sitting in my seat, stand up and stretch, or walk to the lobby.

Intermission is a busy, crowded time. I may have to wait in lines to leave the theatre, to enter the restroom or to get a snack.

There will be an announcement when it is time to locate my seat in the theatre again. The play will continue on stage.



If I need to take a break, I can ask to go to the rehearsal room (Rm 182) or back into the lobby. I will look for the green doors next to the theatre with the word REHEARSAL on them in big letters. If I need to leave during the show, I walk quietly out of the theatre.



When the show is over, I can clap and cheer when the actors come out on stage to take their bows. If the clapping is too loud, I can wear ear protection to cover my ears.



When the actors leave the stage, I wait in line to leave the theatre and go up the stairs slowly. I can remain sitting in my seat and wait for the crowd to leave the theatre, and then I will leave the theatre.

I'll walk out of the building the same way I came in. I can talk about the show as soon as the show ends.





*Opportunity in
North Central Massachusetts*

Our Mission

“To create and support lifetime opportunities in the community for individuals with disabilities and their families to reach their fullest potential by providing advocacy, education, employment, residential, and recreational services to enhance quality of life.”

**To order a copy of this booklet,
contact The Arc receptionist
978-343-6662 X1001**

The Arc of Opportunity
564 Main Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

www.arcofopportunity.org