Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

Sensory Friendly Pre-Visit Guide for MainStage

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CENTER FOR AUTISM & RELATED DISORDERS
I am going to a theater inside the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (MVCPA) to see a show. The theater is named MainStage.
Parking Garage

The car may be **parked** in the underground **parking garage**. I will take the stairs or an elevator to the theater entrance.
Getting to the Theater

When I get out of the car in the parking garage I will need to use either the stairs or the elevator to get to the theater entrance.
Every person watching the show must have a ticket to get into the theater.

Before I go into the theater, I may have to pick up my ticket for the show.

I will go to a place called the **Box Office** to get my ticket.
Box Office Window

The Box Office has a small window with a person on the other side.

I will tell the person behind the window my name and the show I am going to see.

The person behind the window will give me my ticket for the show.

Once I have my ticket I will make my way to the Lobby.
Lobby

The lobby is pale pink with wood panels, a tall ceiling, a tile floor, and carpeting.

It can be noisy in the lobby. There are TV monitors in the lobby that show pictures and videos. The videos might have sound. There will also be people in the lobby when I arrive. They may be there to see the same show as me, or they may be there to see a show in the other theater.

I will walk through the lobby and look for the “MainStage” sign. This is the room where I will see the show.
Restroom

I will let someone I came with know if I have to use the *restroom*, located in the lobby next to where I entered the theater.

I can go to the *restroom* any time I need to.

It can be loud in the *restroom*.

I will use the green handle on the back of the toilet to flush when I am done.

The sound of the flushing toilet can be loud.

I will make sure I wash my hands after using the toilet. The water will automatically turn on when I put my hands under the sink faucet.
Theater Usher

A theater usher is a friendly helper. They wear black pants, a white shirt, and a name tag.

The theater usher can help me find a seat, show me where the bathrooms are, guide me to a quiet space when I need one, and answer any questions, including how long the play is and if there is an intermission.
Ticket Machine

A theater usher will take my ticket at the MainStage doors. My ticket will either be scanned with a machine that beeps or the ticket will be torn.

After the beeping sound or the ticket is torn, we can go into the theater.
My Seat: Reserved Seating

Every seat in the theater has a letter and number on the seat. My ticket may have a letter and a number on it too.

If I have a letter and number on my ticket I will match them to the seat letter and number. This is where I will sit for the show.

A theater usher can help me find my seat.

This is what the chairs in the theater look like.
My Seat: General Admission Seating

If I do not have a letter and number, I can choose my seat. There may be people who have arrived at the theater before me and already chosen their seats.

A theater usher can help me find my seat.

This is what the chairs in the theater look like.
Enter the Theater

The doors to the MainStage will open 45 minutes before the show begins.

When the doors open, I will enter the theater either in the Orchestra or the Balcony.
Orchestra Seating

If my seats are in the Orchestra level I will enter the theater through a door in the downstairs lobby.

When I enter the theater, there will be an aisle with seats on both sides. A theater usher may help me to my seat on the left or right.
Balcony Seating

If my seats are in the Balcony level I will need to take the elevator or the stairs to get to the second floor. A theater usher can help me find the best way.

When I enter the theater, an usher may tell me to go left or right. I will see a wall in front of me when I enter the theater.
Stairs

I may need to use the **stairs** to get down to my seat.
The railing is there to help me use the **stairs** carefully.
Sitting

I will be sitting with the people I arrived with. There may also be people I don’t know sitting next to or near me.

A person may walk in front of me to get to their seat or to go to the lobby.
Preshow

The Preshow is what happens before the show begins. When I get inside the theater there may be actors walking around in costume.

I can ask the actors questions during the preshow.

There may be set pieces on the stage during the preshow. I should stay in the theater and not climb onto the stage.
The show will start when a person stands on the stage and makes a speech.

Actors will tell a story by speaking lines they have memorized. There may be music and/or dancing also.

I will be respectful of my neighbors and the actors on stage by keeping my comments to a quiet voice so others can also hear the actors.

I will laugh when the show is funny.

I will have fun!

Lance Gardner, Cassidy Brown, Ron Campbell
I Need a Break

I will tell someone I came with if I want some quiet time.
I can leave the show at any time and go to the lobby.
I can sit in a chair or walk around the lobby.
The lobby will have a TV monitor.
I can still watch the show on the TV in the lobby.
Quiet Zone

The **Quiet Zone** is located in the lobby balcony. A theater usher can help me find it at the top of the lobby stairs.

If I need a break from the show, I can go to the **Quiet Zone**. The **Quiet Zone** will be a place I can relax – with chairs and tables.

I can still watch the show on the TV monitor from the **Quiet Zone**.
Intermission

The play may have an intermission.

This is a time for the actors to have a break and is also a time for everyone watching the show to have a break.

I can go to the lobby if I want to.

I can go to the bathroom if I need to.

I can stay in my seat if I want to.

Sometimes people like to talk to the people seated next to them about the play during intermission.
The show ends when the actors bow.
If I like the show, I can **clap** when the show ends.
Other people will **clap**.
I can cover my ears if the **clapping** noise is too loud.
People **clap** only for a short time, then the **clapping** is over.
Leaving

All the people will leave the theater at the same time.

I will need to walk up the aisle to leave the theater in the Orchestra level.

I will need to walk up the stair to leave the theater in the Balcony level.

The aisle and stairs can be crowded.

I will walk slowly in the aisle and on the stairs.
Thank You

Thank you for coming to visit us at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (MVCPA). We always enjoy seeing people at our theater and we hope you come back to see another show.

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders, LLC (CARD) is pleased to support the Autistic and Sensory Sensitive Community by sponsoring MVCPA’s Autism/Sensory Friendly productions.

CARD is the world’s largest provider of top-quality, evidence-based autism treatment, effectively treating individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related disorders. With both domestic and international reach, CARD touches the lives of thousands of individuals affected by ASD and their families. Through a network of highly trained behavior analysts, behavior technicians, and researchers, CARD develops and implements quality, comprehensive, and individualized treatment programs, which lead to success and, in some cases, recovery. For more information, please visit www.centerforautism.com.

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