



HoustonBallet



THE
NUTCRACKER
A Social Narrative



I am going to see Houston Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*.



***The Nutcracker* is performed at the Wortham Theater Center.**



I will travel downtown and park in the Theater District Parking Garage.



I will follow signs to the Worham Theater Center.



**I can take the stairs or the elevator to the
Box Office or Lobby.**



**An usher will scan my tickets and I will take an escalator
or elevator into the Grand Foyer.**



The Grand Foyer is a busy place with a lot of people. I can purchase food and souvenirs. If I need a break, I can follow signs to rest in a Quiet Space.



If I want to participate in some activities, I can follow signs that say Activities.



I know the show is about to start when I hear the chimes. It is time to go find my seat.



When I am seated, I see a stage and lights in the theater. I may be sitting next to someone I don't know. I can hold my adult's hand if I feel nervous or scared.



Clowns will appear on stage and make balloon animals, and explain the rules of the theater.



The show starts when the big red curtain opens, and the music starts. The lights get darker in the theatre, but I can still see.



Going to the ballet is like watching TV or a movie because it tells a story.



In ballet, there are no words, instead, dancers tell a story by moving their bodies.



There are a lot of things to see at a ballet.



This includes dancers in costumes, scenery and props.



The music is played live by an orchestra.



**It is okay for me to make noise while I watch the show.
Clapping tells the dancers they are doing a good job. If I
want to clap, I can.**



If I ever get scared or things get too loud, I can cover my ears, squeeze a fidget or hold the hand of the person I came with. It's okay to say that I need a break. I can leave the theater at any time and follow signs to rest in a Quiet Space.



I can use the restroom, get a drink of water or go to a quiet space any time I need to. I can come back to the show when I am ready. I can do this while the dancers are on stage.



***The Nutcracker* is a story about a magical journey. I will see mice and soldiers fighting with swords.**



The dancers dressed in costumes are playing pretend, or acting. No one gets hurt.



At the end of Act I, snow will fall.



**Everyone takes a break halfway through the show.
This is called intermission, and it lasts 25 minutes.**



During the intermission, I can go to the bathroom, walk around, eat a snack, do activities, or rest in a Quiet Space during this break. I can also stay in my seat if I want.



**I know the show when I hear the chimes.
It is time to go find my seat.**



When the show is over, the dancers will bow, and some people will stand and clap. If I want to clap, I can. When the curtains close and the theatre gets brighter, it is time for us to go home.



When the performance is over, and the curtain closes, I will leave the theater. Everyone else will leave too. It is important that I stay with my group at all times. If I need help finding my way, I can ask an usher to guide me.



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Thank you for coming to see
***The Nutcracker* with**
Houston Ballet!

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