GOING TO WHARTON CENTER
A Social Story

I am going to see a play at Wharton Center for Performing Arts.

Seeing a play is a little like watching something on TV or going to a movie, but a play is performed live on a stage by people called actors. Sometimes the actors may shout at each other, but they are only pretending. Some actors may pretend to be animals or other things.
I may travel to Wharton Center by car or by bus. My family, teacher, or care takers will help me get there.

I may enter the building through a big parking structure.
Once we park and get out of the car, I may need to go up or down the stairs or in an elevator to get to the building entrance.
I may walk through an area called the Atrium. There will be someone there to greet me and tell me where to go.

Someone might be playing the piano in the Atrium. If it is too loud, I can cover my ears or ask someone for help.
When I get into Wharton Center, I will be welcomed by friendly people called ushers. They will show me where to go in the theatre.

There may be a crowd of a lot of people of all ages in the lobby. If it is too loud, I can cover my ears, put on headphones, or ask someone for help.
It can be hard to move through a crowd. The best way is to say, “Excuse me.” This lets people know you would like to get by them.

A ‘thank you” afterward is also nice!
There is a gift shop in the lobby. If I want to go in, I should get permission first.

There is also a desk in the lobby where I can ask for help if I need it.
If we don’t have tickets to the show already, we may stand in line at the ticket office window. The person behind the window will hand the tickets to us.

After getting my tickets, I will take the stairs or the elevator to get to the theatre.
An usher will take my ticket and scan it with a machine that will blink and may beep. The usher will tell me what door I should enter to get into the theatre.
If I don’t want to be inside the theatre, that’s okay. I can watch the show on TVs instead.

I can stay out in the lobby or go to the Activity Area for games, crafts, and other fun activities.
If I need a more peaceful place for calm activities, I can go to the Calm Corner.

If I need very quiet time to myself, I can go to the Quiet Space.
I will let someone know if I need to use the bathroom.

If I want to get a snack or drink, I can use money to buy something at the concession stand.
When I walk into the theatre, an usher may help me find my seat. The stairs are very steep, so I may want to hang onto the railing.

The usher might give us a program book. It talks about the people who helped make the show.
When it is time for the show to start, there will be announcements made by someone on the stage. The theatre will get darker and everyone will get quiet.

I may see people using their hands to speak sign language near the stage. This is so people with a hearing impairment can enjoy the show, too.
There will be talking and running around on stage during the show. Some people will clap or laugh. I can clap or laugh, also. If it is too loud, I can cover my ears or use earplugs or headphones.

If it is still too loud, or if I need to take a break, I will let someone know. I can ask a Helper or usher for help. I can go to the lobby, Activity Area, Calm Corner, or Quiet Space. I can come back to my seat when I am ready or I can watch from the TVs outside the theatre.
At the end of the show, all of the actors will come out on stage. This is called a *curtain call*. Many people will clap a lot so the actors know they liked the show. I can clap, too, or cover my ears if it is too loud.

After the show is over, there will be a short presentation where the actors will introduce themselves and talk about the show.

Then we will leave Wharton Center.