



HoustonBallet



# THE NUTCRACKER

PRESENTED BY HOUSTON  
Methodist®

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!**

**KNOWAutism** 

**EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
EXPOSE. EDUCATE. INTEGRATE.