We are Going to TherAbilities Performing Arts Center
Notes to parents/caregivers

You may want to be aware of several areas in our center that may present challenges or be of interest to children who have sensory or autism spectrum disorders.

Fire extinguishers – For children who are fascinated by fire equipment. There are several fire extinguishers on walls in the center. You will see them noted in the following visual story. You may want to be aware they are there in case you need to prepare your child in terms of “no touch”.

Doors/exits – For children who may be curious or tend to wander. Some internal doors are not for client use, and there is one exit door that is not to be used unless there is an emergency. These are noted as well in the visual story.

Mirrors in dance studios – For children who enjoy watching themselves in large mirrors. There are large mirrors in both dance studios. You may want to prepare your child by offering a limited time to enjoy the mirror before focusing on the class he/she is here to attend.

Restrooms – For children who have sensory issues with restroom equipment. We use paper towels, not hand dryers.

Parent waiting areas – We have parent wait areas and wi-fi internet. Please ask about accessing the wi-fi service.

The following two pages can be printed and used, if needed, to prepare children for their visit by giving them advance information on activities and time. The session schedule may need to be filled out after arriving for an appointment.
We are going to TherAbilities Performing Arts Center

We will go on ________________________________ at _____:______

   DAY/DATE       TIME

Activity or activities I will be doing:

Physical therapy

Speech therapy

Occupational therapy

Art

Music

Dance

Tae-Kwon-Do

Other activities they might be doing?
SCHEDULE FOR MY VISIT TO THERABILITIES

MY VISIT WILL LAST _________________ MINUTES

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<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOW MANY MINUTES?</th>
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ALL DONE!

WHEN THE ACTIVITIES ARE ALL DONE IT WILL BE TIME TO GO, SEE YOU NEXT TIME!
This is the sign we will see when we get to TherAbilities.

This is the building.

We can park in front.

Or we can park on the side of the building.

If someone in our car uses a disabled parking permit, we can park in one of the special places next to the front door.
This is the front door. We will go in through this door.

We will see another door straight ahead. We will go to this door. We will push the doorbell and hold it down for 3 seconds.
There is an elevator on the other side of the lobby. We will not ride on the elevator to go to TherAbilities.

We will see a directory on the wall that shows what is on the first floor and second floor.
When someone opens the door to let us in, the bells on the door will jingle. It will be OK – not too loud! I can be ready for the sound.

We will see a big bulletin board with all the classes at TherAbilities.
We will see a sign that tells us where to go first. We will go left into the reception area.

We cannot touch the fire extinguisher.
We will come in this room to sign the book and wait for our turn. Someone will come get us soon!
We can read magazines, play with toys or watch the fish in the aquarium. The fish are not real fish, but they are a lot of fun to watch!

The sign asks us not to bring food or drinks to the center so the floors will be nice and clean for everybody to enjoy!

We can look at the bulletin board to learn about events that will be happening soon in Tampa.
If I need to go to the restroom, there are two.

This one is for boys and men

This one is for girls and women

This symbol shows that people who use wheelchairs will be able to use this restroom.
I will see some fashion and beauty products for sale in the hallway. These things are not for playing. If we want to look at or buy something, we will ask “May I look at the __________________, please?”

- Bow
- Head band
- Scarf
On our first visit, we may go in the Registration room for a meeting. We might write information on some pages.
In the next hallway, we won’t go this way, or open any of these doors. We will not touch the fire extinguisher!
This is the hallway in the back.

We will not open this door.
If I am at TherAbilities to play music or have speech therapy, we will be in this room.

Maybe we will write a schedule

Maybe we will use a timer or a picture to help change from one activity to the next one.
Maybe I will meet Roger the puppet! He is very friendly and loves to make people laugh.

We will draw, paint or make crafts at these tables.
I can look at all the fun things in the aquarium.

This is the way we go to dance or martial arts classes.
Parents can wait here

We will put our shoes in cubbies for some classes in the dance studios.
Small dance studio

Dance, cheerleading, Tae Kwon Do
If I need to take a break or relax for a few minutes, I can rock, jump, lie down or use the weights.
Sometimes we might have fun with the big parachute!. It is fun to be underneath while the parachute goes up and down!

We will not touch anything on the media shelf.
We can hang coats or sweaters here.
This is the big dance room!

Another wall with mirrors. We will use the mirrors to help us practice dance, cheerleading, or Tae Kwon Do.
Here is another media shelf. We don’t touch!

Green light, yellow light, red light helps me see when I am doing a very good job!
When I am all done, it will be time to go.

Bye TherAbilities! See you next time!
Created for
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by
The University of South Florida
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
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