SOCIAL STORY
I will go to Hartford Stage to see the play. Hartford Stage is a theatre in Hartford, Connecticut. There are lots of tall buildings nearby!

I will get there by riding in a car or maybe a bus. If I come in a car, we might park in a garage.

The grown-ups with me will know how to get to Hartford Stage. When we get to the theatre, the outside of the building will look like this photo.
When I enter the theatre, I may have to stand in line at the box office to get my tickets. If I have to stand in line, I will stay with my family or group and calmly wait for my turn.

After I have my ticket, I can go inside the lobby. There may be lots of other people in the lobby. If I feel afraid, I can hold my grown-up’s hand or take five deep breaths.
If I need to, I can use the bathroom or get a drink of water before the show. The toilets in the bathrooms flush automatically. When I wash my hands, the sinks will also turn on automatically. Sometimes it can be a bit noisy. If I want to, I can put my hands over my ears or take five deep breaths to help with the noise.
When I am ready, we will give our tickets to the usher, who will be wearing a black t-shirt. The usher will give us a program, which is like a small book about the play. An usher will also have some earplugs and a fidget that I can take to use during the show, if I need to. I can take these home with me!
I will go into the theatre. It is a big room with a lot of seats. I may have to go either up or down stairs to get to my seat. I can hold on to the railing while I do this. It may be a bit crowded. People might accidentally touch or bump into me while they walk by. This is OK, and I will not get hurt. If I am afraid, I can hold my grown-up’s hand or take five deep breaths.
An usher will look at the numbers on our tickets and tell us where to find our seats. Because we have our own assigned seats, we do not choose where to sit. There may be other people that I don’t know sitting near me. That is OK. We will watch the show together! If I am nervous, I can squeeze my fidget or hold my grown-up’s hand.
When it is time for the play to start, the theatre will get dark and quiet. I will try to be quiet during the show so I can hear everything and so that others can hear, too.

I will see actors on the stage. Actors are people wearing costumes, just like on Halloween. They are pretending to be the people in the story. Even though sometimes they may look a bit scary, they are very nice and will not hurt me. Some of the actors are even kids like me!
When there is going to be a moment that is a little bit scary, an usher will hold up a lantern. This will let me know to squeeze my fidget or hold my grown-up’s hand if I need to.

Sometimes during the play, there will be noises like thunder. It is not real thunder. It is just pretend. If it is too loud, I can wear my earplugs or cover my ears. But the noises will not hurt me, and I will be safe as I watch the play.

If I feel afraid during the play, I can squeeze my fidget, hold my grown-up’s hand, or give my grown-up a hug. If I need to, I can go out to a quiet room in the lobby to take a break. One of the ushers will show my grown-up and me how to get there. When I feel better, I can come back into the theatre to watch the play.
There will be a break in the play. This is called intermission. During intermission, people will leave the theatre to get a drink, eat a snack, or use the restroom. If I want to, I can ask a grown-up if I may have a drink or snack, or use the restroom.

After the intermission, everyone will come back into the theatre and sit down in their seats. The theatre will get dark and quiet again. I will try to be quiet during the show so I can hear everything, and so others can hear, too.

The actors will come onstage and finish telling the story of *A Christmas Carol!*
At the end of the play, the actors will bow, and some people in the audience will clap their hands. Clapping our hands tells the actors that we liked the play. I can clap, too, if I want, but I don’t have to. If it is too loud, I can wear my earplugs or put my hands over my ears.

After the play, I will walk out into the lobby. It will be crowded, and I will have to wait for my turn to leave. People might accidentally touch or bump into me while they walk by. This is OK, and I will not get hurt. If I am afraid, I can hold my grown-up’s hand or take five deep breaths.
We will then leave Hartford Stage.

I am excited to go see *A Christmas Carol* at Hartford Stage!

All *A Christmas Carol* production photos by T. Charles Erickson