



Informal,
interactive and
immersive
performing arts
experiences for
children ages 2-11
and their
families!

You're never too young to enjoy the performing arts!

Never Too Young performances are intended as introductory theatre experiences for children ages 2-11 and their families. Although most programs are geared toward a target audience of children ages 2-8, we welcome infants and toddlers as well as older children to share in these live interactive experiences with their grandparents, parents, siblings or friends. The series aims to provide young children with the opportunity to engage in a variety of performing arts events in an informal, interactive and immersive setting. We hope that by participating, children will become comfortable with their visits to the theater and develop their interest in the performing arts, eventually learning the skills needed to be active and attentive audience members. Parents are encouraged to allow their children to respond to the performances freely! There is a wide range of age-appropriate behaviors and responses as children express their feelings about the art they are experiencing. On the back of this sheet are descriptions of some of the behaviors you might see at a Never Too Young performance – all are appropriate!

Never Too Young



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performing arts!**

Ages 3 and 4

You may see children 3 and 4 years old respond to performing arts by:

Moving their bodies to music, even while seated

Singing or humming along with music

Asking questions during the performance. (They are naturally curious and should be encouraged to ask you questions in a quiet voice.

Children this age usually cannot hold their questions until the end of the performance.)

**School Age Children
(ages 5 and up)**

Most children can recognize familiar and personal themes such as friendship and love and may want to talk about these themes after the performance.

Most children can control their bodies by sitting still and keeping hands and feet to themselves.

Most children can wait until the end of the performance to ask questions.

Younger school age children (Kindergarten) may need adult assistance with expressing their questions clearly.

Most children can be expected to pay attention and remain quiet during a typical 1-hour family performance.

Most children recognize that laughter, applause, and exclamations are appropriate responses to performances.

Ages 1 and 2

Children 1 and 2 years old may respond to performing arts in a very physical way. You may see children this age respond to a performance by:

Standing up and dancing or bobbing to music

“Singing” or humming along with music

Moving around or spinning

Expressing excitement or surprise physically or vocally

Infants

It is never too early to introduce your child to the world of the performing arts.

Infants may respond to the stimulus of the performance by:

Cooing and making other vocalizations

Moving/jerking/flapping their arms and hands up and down or kicking their legs

We ask that parents/ adults help us enforce any safety requests that are made at the beginning of the show. Please use your discretion regarding disruptive behavior. If your child is overstimulated or uncomfortable, he/she may respond in ways that are disturbing to other audience members or the performers. Always feel free to step out to the hall or lobby for a break and then return to the performance as needed.

