Little Angel Theatre

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Visual Story

A visual resource for children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This resource is intended to help prepare any visitors for a new experience and to help them to become familiar with the show, surroundings and situation.

The Show

The show lasts for 45 minutes, with no interval.

In the show there are four puppeteers and many puppets. The puppeteers are dressed in black, but they are not hidden - you can see them.

Music is played through the show and the puppeteers also sing and play instruments. Sometimes the puppets or puppeteers talk directly to the audience or move through the seating area.

What Happens

The play is based on the book '*We're going on a Bear Hunt',* by Michael Rosen & illustrated by Helen Oxenbury.

A family set out on a beautiful day to walk through the countryside on an imaginary 'bear hunt'.

On the way they encounter many obstacles in their surroundings, such as long grass, a deep river and squelchy mud, as well as some bad weather, but they overcome each obstacle and finally find themselves at a cave.

Inside the cave they come face to face with a real bear (played by a puppet in our story), and race back home through all the same obstacles with the bear following them. They reach the safety of their own home and then realise they've forgotten to close the door!

They run back to close it just as the bear gets there, and then they all hide under the duvet, deciding never to go on a bear hunt again. The bear wanders off alone and returns to his cave to play with the butterflies. Perhaps he just wanted to be friends after all?

Characters

As this is a puppetry show, the characters are played by puppets.

The main characters are a family - here are some pictures of them:

Here is the whole family with their dog

Dad & the Dog

Big Sister Lizzie

The twins, Gilbert & Jessie

Baby Brother Bertie

There is one more very important character in the show….

The Bear!

Play Notes

As you enter the auditorium you will see some scenery on the stage.

The show starts when the puppeteers march through the auditorium whistling, then singing 'we're going on a bear hunt'. *At the end of the song, one of the puppeteers growls like a bear and the others run away.*

The puppeteers then begin to sing a song about what a beautiful day it is. *The dog appears and barks at Lizzie.* Then the other characters start to appear.

The family get ready to go on their bear hunt. First of all they come to some long, wavy grass.

As the family make their way through the grass, the puppeteers sing a song about 'swishy swashy grass' and butterfly puppets flutter in the air.

Baby Bertie hides in the grass and Big Sister Lizzie looks for him. She asks the audience if anyone has seen him. When she finds him, they carry on through the grass.
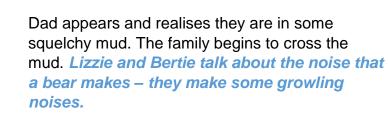
The lights go down, and when they come on again, *the stage has been made to look like a river, with noisy ducks swimming on it. The dog barks at the ducks and they quack loudly.*

Each member of the family makes their way across the river. Baby Bertie even has a swim!

There is some music during this part of the performance.

The lights change again and 2 seagull puppets appear. They are a little bit noisy and the dog appears and barks at them.

Dad appears and realises they are in some squelchy mud. The family begins to cross the mud. *Lizzie and Bertie talk about the noise that a bear makes – they make some growling noises.*

When the twins appear, the puppeteers start singing a song about mud, and the twins play in the mud.

When the mud song finishes, the lights go down again and in the darkness some animal noises are heard. An owl appears. The dog barks again.

When the lights come up, Big Sister Lizzie is in the forest. She sings a song and meets a deer.

The family walk through the forest. *They sing 'we're going on a bear hunt' again. A loud bird noise startles Big Sister Lizzie and she stumbles and hurts her knee.* Dad helps her and decides they should go home but then they get caught in a snow storm!

The twins Jessie & Gilbert call out loudly to eachother as they are blown around in the snow storm. The dog barks loudly. There is some music and singing in this scene as a piece of snowy white fabric billows on the stage. After the storm, the family keeps walking and comes to a rocky place with a cave.

The dog barks a little bit and Baby Bertie calls out 'Mr bear', then scares his family by roaring loudly and making them jump. The performers sing a song about the cave. During this scene the stage is quite dark and the performers use small torches.

At the end of the song, the family discovers that they have come face to face with a real bear who lives in the cave! *They shout loudly in surprise and the dog barks, the bear growls very loudly.*

In the next part of the performance, some music is played and the bear keeps popping out to surprise us from different parts of the stage and auditorium, the family makes their way back through all the different places they have been to.

Sometimes the bear growls and the family screams - this part of of the show is quite noisy! The bear puppet is brought closer to the audience and does some growling.

With the bear chasing them, the family carries on back until they reach their home.

When they are home, they suddenly realise they have forgotten to shut the door, and dad runs back to close it just in time before the bear gets in. Then they all go upstairs and hide under the covers.

Baby Bertie surprises everyone again by popping out from under the covers and roaring. Everyone laughs.

The performers sing a song as we see the bear sitting alone in the moonlight. He is watching a butterfly and is not as scary as he might have seemed before.

This is the end of the play.

If you enjoyed the show you can clap your hands.

To finish off, the puppeteers sing a lively song and play instruments while the bear puppet dances. At the end of the song you can clap your hands again if you like. And then the puppeteers will say goodbye to the audience and leave the stage.

We hope that you enjoy the show!