

# Babble Lab Audience Guide



2023-2024 Season

children's  
theatre  
company

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At CTC, our mission is to create extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities. This Audience Guide is just one of the ways in which we aim to enhance your experience and further your engagement with the shows on stage.

It includes a summary, context, fun facts, and activities plus details that can help you decide what's right for your kids.

If you have any further questions, please contact our friendly Ticket Office Associates at 612.874.0400 during their regular business hours or email them at [tickets@childrenstheatre.org](mailto:tickets@childrenstheatre.org).

## Summary

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Strap on your safety goggles and clean out your ears! When an experiment unexpectedly goes awry, a concoction of sneaky, sprightly L E T T E R S takes over a weird and wondrous science lab. Watch them jump into jars, spring from drawers, bounce around the room, and even play hide-and-seek as our scientist makes her surprising findings. Bluke terullala blaulala loooo! Rakete bee bee? Rekate bee zee! Enjoy the blubbering and blibbering exploration of spoken blurbbles as they spring forth in this one-of-a-kind explosion of language. Created with preschoolers and early learners in mind.

## Content Advisories

**Language: 0 out of 5 stars** ★★☆☆☆

The actor communicates with the audience using sounds and gestures instead of words.

**Violence and Scariness: 0 out of 5 stars** ★★☆☆☆

**Sensory Advisories: 1 out of 5 stars** ★☆☆☆☆

Everyday objects and lab equipment are used to experiment with sound. A balloon makes a loud, squeaky sound as it emits air and deflates. A crash is heard, and the lab becomes dark for just a moment.

**Potentially Anxious Moments: 1 out of 5 stars** ★☆☆☆☆

The scientist feels sad.

Please contact [tickets@childrenstheatre.org](mailto:tickets@childrenstheatre.org) with any questions.



# Perfect for Preschoolers

CTC’s preschool shows are specifically designed to be developmentally appropriate for our youngest audience members. At under 50 minutes long, it is perfectly tuned to engage early learners and we welcome all the wiggles, giggles, and even comments it inspires.

The show begins in the lobby...

Once your performance time arrives, you’ll be greeted in the lobby by the actor (in character!) as she prepares you to enter “The Babble Lab” (the theatre). You’ll be invited to put on a pair of cozy puppet socks designed especially for our preschool audiences and their caregivers—a tradition borrowed from Scandinavian theatre traditions for young audiences.

Inside, our younger audience members will have special benches right up front—just a few feet from the stage—while parents can sit behind to enjoy the experience.

Our space is a “No Shush-ing” Zone! Little ones are allowed to move about, react to the story, and engage with the performer. It truly is a perfect first theatre experience for preschoolers (and younger!).





# Sound Scavenger Hunt

*Babble Lab* is all about the joy and wonder of sound. Go on a sound scavenger hunt to see what sounds you can find!

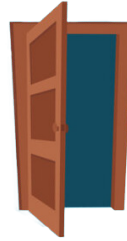
Walk through your neighborhood and cross out the sounds as you hear them. How many can you find? Were you able to identify the sounds before you saw the objects that created them?



**Music**



**A Cricket**



**A Door Closing**



**A Car**



**Construction**



**A Bird**



**Water**



**A Squirrel Running**



**Police Sirens**



**Bouncing Ball**



**Dog Barking**



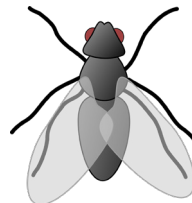
**An Airplane**



**Wind**



**A Bicycle**



**A Fly or Bug**

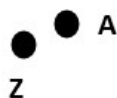
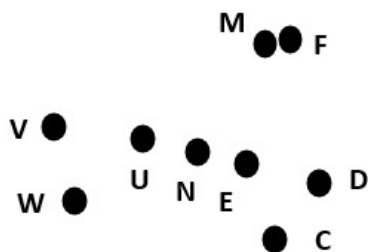
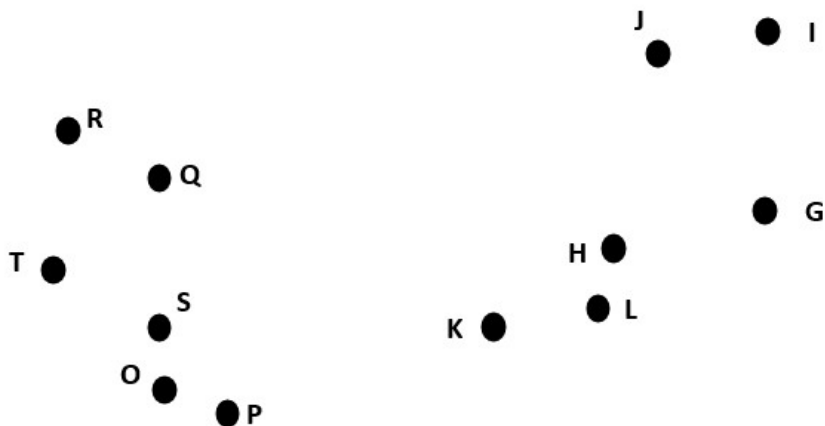


**Laughter**

# Connect the Alphabet

Connect the dots below in the order of the alphabet to reveal a picture.

When you are finished, color the picture!





A **sound designer** is someone who thinks about what the world of the play sounds like including the music and noises in the background. In this activity, kids will act as sound designers and brainstorm sounds they might hear in different locations.

## Instructions:

1. Ask your child to close their eyes and listen to the sounds around them. Have them share one at a time what they hear.
2. Next, brainstorm other locations, or settings, a play might take place. Remind them that the play they saw at CTC took place in a science laboratory. Where else do stories take place?
3. For each location, brainstorm together sounds you might hear in those locations.

Use the template below for inspiration!

Location	Sounds
Castle	
Forest	
Backyard	
Science Laboratory	
Grocery Store	
Beach	



## Early Childhood Programming at CTC

Children's Theatre Company's early childhood programs include nationally recognized pre-school productions, Creative Play, and Theatre Arts Training classes for ages 2-5. CTC collaborates with and presents work by leading performing artists for early learners from around the world and is a national leader in creating new plays that respect and encourage the playful nature of audience members ages 2-5.

Because the first five years of life are an especially unique stage of remarkable learning, growth, and development, Children's Theatre Company incorporates evidence-based strategies and developmentally appropriate practices to build social, emotional, and cognitive skills through positive, interactive experiences, led by professional theatre artists and educators. In their early years, children develop skills in the arts that allow them to explore a variety of ways to be creative and express themselves. Skills in the arts are highly interrelated with development across domains.

## Impact of Theatre Arts Activities

- Pretend play builds curiosity through exploration and imaginative questioning.
- Language-rich stories and songs build vocabulary and activate brain development.
- Creative storytelling gives children opportunities to make choices and use their voices.
- Expressive movement exercises large motor skills, supporting muscle and brain development.
- Self-expression is foundational to self and social awareness and to developing healthy relationships.



Explore CTC Classes for Ages 2-5

[childrenstheatre.org/classes](http://childrenstheatre.org/classes)