



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 1 hour and does not have an interval.

There are 3 performers in the show and lots of puppets.

The show has recorded music and lots of songs.

Synopsis

This show is based on the book *Charlie Cook's Favourite Book* by Julia Donaldson. The show follows the sequence of the book but is not exactly the same, for example in the show Charlie has a sister called Izzy.



Charlie loves reading. Especially books about pirates. But his sister hates it – it's boring! Can Charlie convince her that reading is fun? Perhaps if she read a book about a pirate, who is reading a book about Goldilocks, who is reading a book about a knight...

Come and delve into a range of books with Charlie Cook, brought to life with puppetry and enchanting songs, and perhaps you will be able to help his sister discover the wonderful world inside a book...



Characters

Charlie, his sister and his mum are played by performers. Some of the characters are puppets and sometimes Charlie and his family pretend to be characters in the books.



Charlie

Mum

Izzy





The Dragon



The Frog



The Owl



The Aliens



The Sheep



The Crocodile

The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see the set. This is the living room. **Music is playing.**
Just before the show is going to start there is an announcement over the speakers.
Izzy enters the living room via the door at the back of the stage and the show begins.

The show starts with a song as the family gradually enter. **They sing a song about Charlie, who is always reading books.**

Izzy plays around Charlie, who is trying to read. She is disturbing him.

Charlie tries to encourage Izzy to read— **Izzy sings a song about reading being boring!**

As she sings she jumps around the room and keeps annoying Charlie.

Mum and Charlie think that they can show Izzy how much fun books are.



They find a book about a pirate and play a game where they do lots of actions inspired by pirates.

They sing a song about being pirates. Izzy pretends to be a pirate captain.

Part way through the song a storm begins to brew. The lights flash and there are storm sounds.

The pirate captain is so busy talking to their parrot and ignoring the storm that the boat springs a leak.

The pirate captain is forced to walk the plank.

We see the pirate captain under water, the lights turn blue and we hear the sound of water and seagulls.

The pirate captain finds a chest on the beach and inside it is a book.....

Izzy doesn't want to read another book but Charlie and mum encourage her by starting with a game of hide and seek. **They sneak up on each other and say Boo!**

They sing a song about Goldilocks. It's dark and the performers shine torches on their faces as they sing about an annoying girl who comes round even when she isn't invited!

Izzy still thinks books are boring!

They look at a joke book and share some jokes. A dragon appears. From the book. It's a Knights own joke book so all of the jokes have a knight or dragon theme. **Every time they tell a joke the dragon roars**—until the final joke, when he laughs!



They sing a song about how dragons like jokes too. At the end of the song they all start laughing.

They look for another book that Izzy might like. They play leapfrog and find a book about a frog.

We hear frog noises and they sing a song about a frog who loved reading so much that they had read all the books in the library. Whenever the librarian shared a new book with them they always replied 'Reddit!'

They look for another book for Izzy to read and find a book about birds.

They turn the window around and transform the living room into a garden. There is the sound of birds singing, and they pretend that books are birds— Flapping their pages like wings.

They sing a song about the birds having a competition to build the best nest. The Owl is the judge. The Owl appears from a book.

We meet a pigeon, who builds a soft nest from cushions.

We meet a blue tit, who builds a nest from kitchen tools.

We meet a rook, who builds a nest from books.

The rook wins the competition!



Mum needs a rest!

She sits down to read her favourite magazine, but she falls asleep.

Izzy wants to play space rockets. She counts down to lift off, but Charlie tells her to be quiet. They don't want to wake mum up, so they play more quietly.

The lamp becomes a space ship with flashing lights. It zooms around and lands on the tree.

Alien eyes pop out!

They sing a song about exploring earth.

The aliens dance around mum as she sleeps and appear from everywhere! The alien in mums mug grows!

Mum begins to wake up and the aliens disappear in their space ship. Mum wakes up just as they are gone.

Mum looks at her magazine and tells Charlie and Izzy that it's about a King who loves sparkly things, but one day a robber comes and steals them!

The phone rings as the king calls the police.

They sing a song telling the story of what happens next.

Mum pretends to be a police person and blows a whistle as they chase the robber. Blue lights flash.

The robber steals a car, which revs and screeches as it's driven away. They honk the horn as they are stuck amongst a flock of bleating sheep!

The robber is caught and the door slams as he's put into prison.



They play a game, listing all the things that Mum buys when she goes to the shops. They move the furniture and create an underwater world, with rubber gloves as fish and a whale that blows bubbles.

A big crocodile puppet swims across the room.

They sing a song about a crocodile who is bored of eating fish.

The crocodile comes out of the water and tries eating books—The crocodile loves eating books. His body splits in half and reveals a tummy full of books!

One of the books in his body is an encyclopaedia. Mum explains what an encyclopaedia is—It's a book full of facts!

She opens one page and reads about the biggest birthday cake ever made. **They sing a song about the cake and build it using tables.** They bang bowls with spoons as they sing. They use a balloon to make a cherry on top of the cake.

The cake is so delicious a famous astronaut takes a slice to space. And he also takes a book!

The next book that they look at is a ghost story. Izzy puts a white apron over her face and says wooooooo!

The lights go dark and turn red. There are creepy ghostly noises and torch light.



They sing a song about Underarm Alice.

Alice is a ghost who carries her head under her arm. Her head is a picture on the cover of a book.

The lights flash as she wanders around and the song ends with a scary laugh.



The show ends with the family singing a song about all the different types of books there are.

At the end of the song the performers bow.

You can clap if you want to.

They sing one more song—You can clap along if you want to. **The lights flash gently.**

At the end of the song the performers bow again—They run off.



We hope you enjoyed the show!