

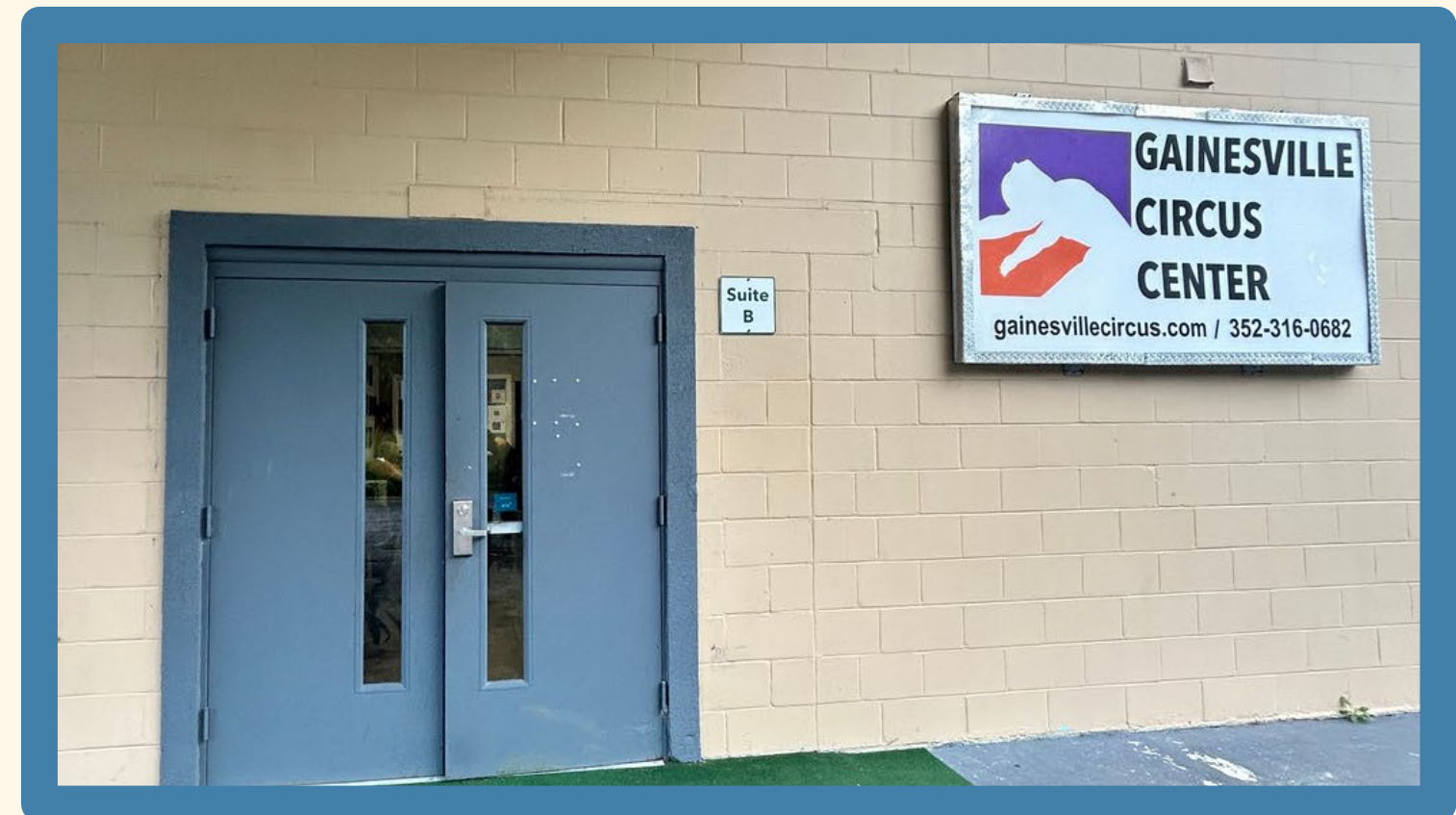


# Social Story



# Today I am going to the Gainesville Circus Center!

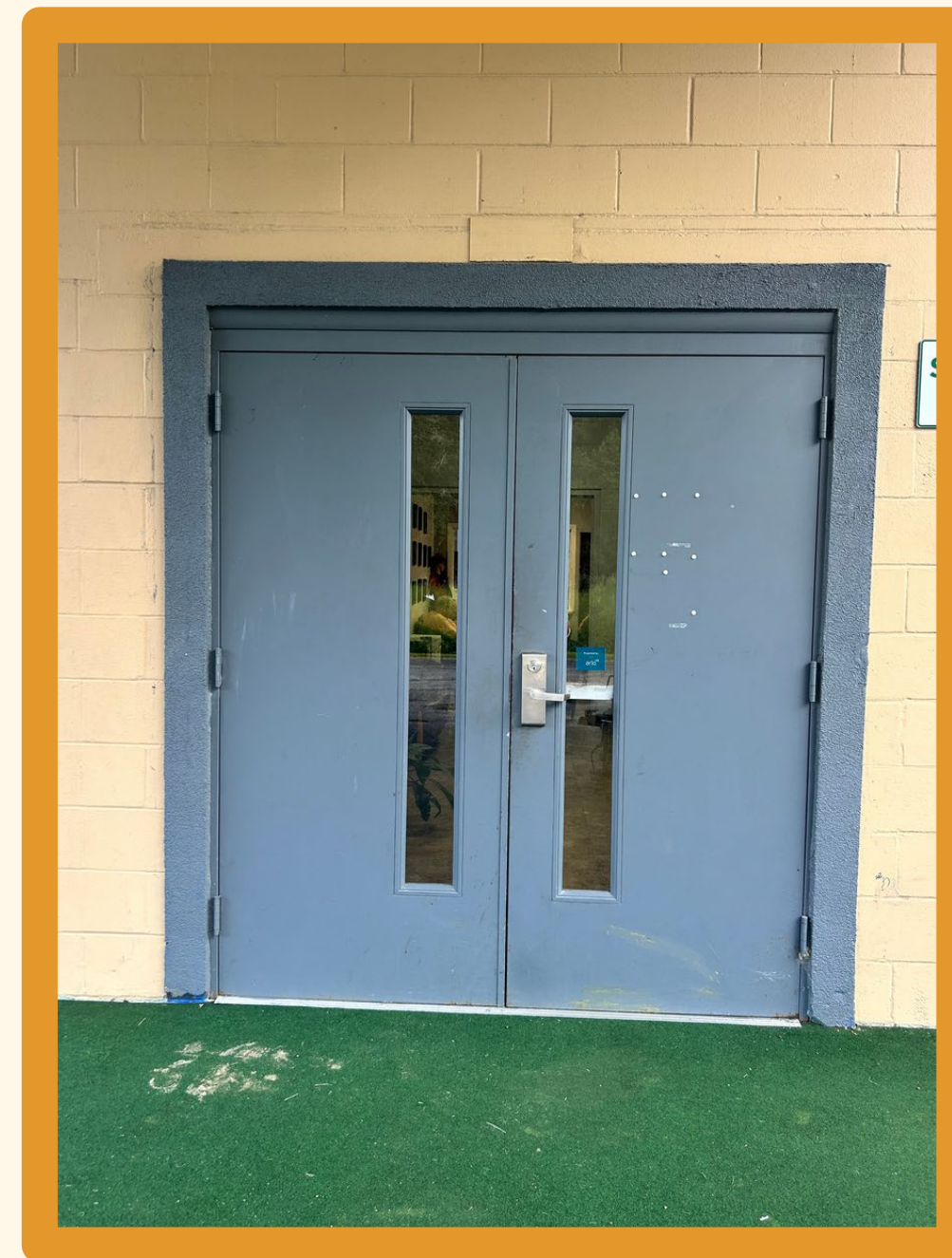
I will wait in my car with my family or friends until it is time to go inside.



We don't want to arrive too early. Waiting in the car helps us feel calm and ready for the fun show ahead!



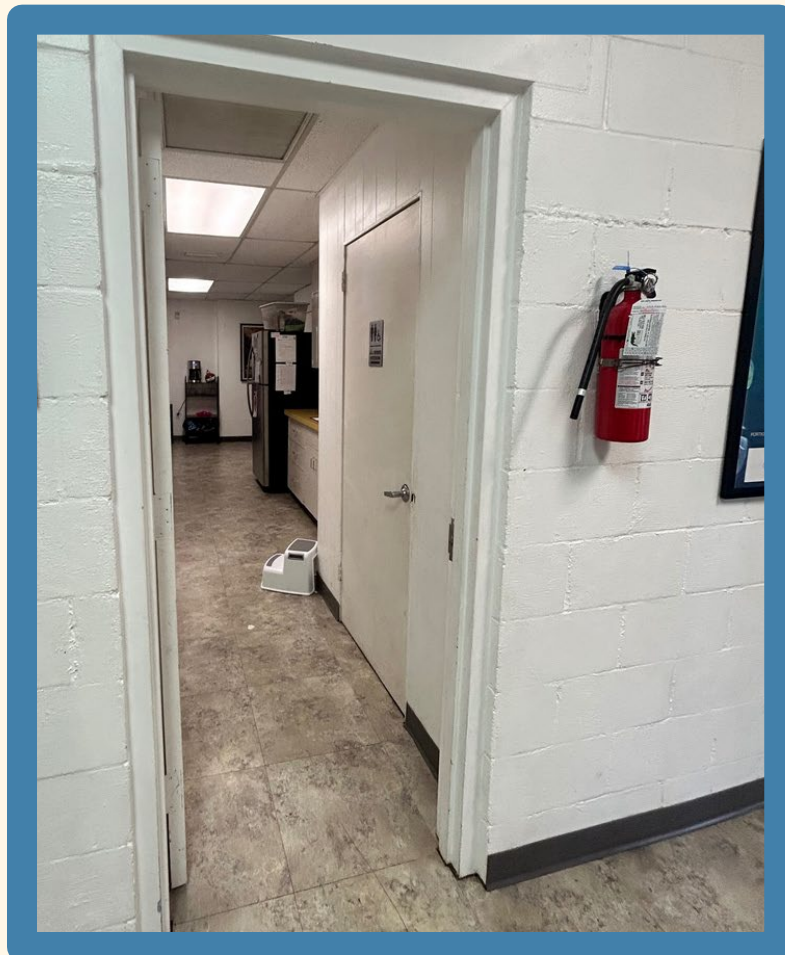
**When it is time to go in, we will walk through  
the front doors.**





In the lobby, I will see a bathroom on the right, and a place to leave my shoes.

We will all take our shoes off and leave them by the door. Our shoes will be safe here.





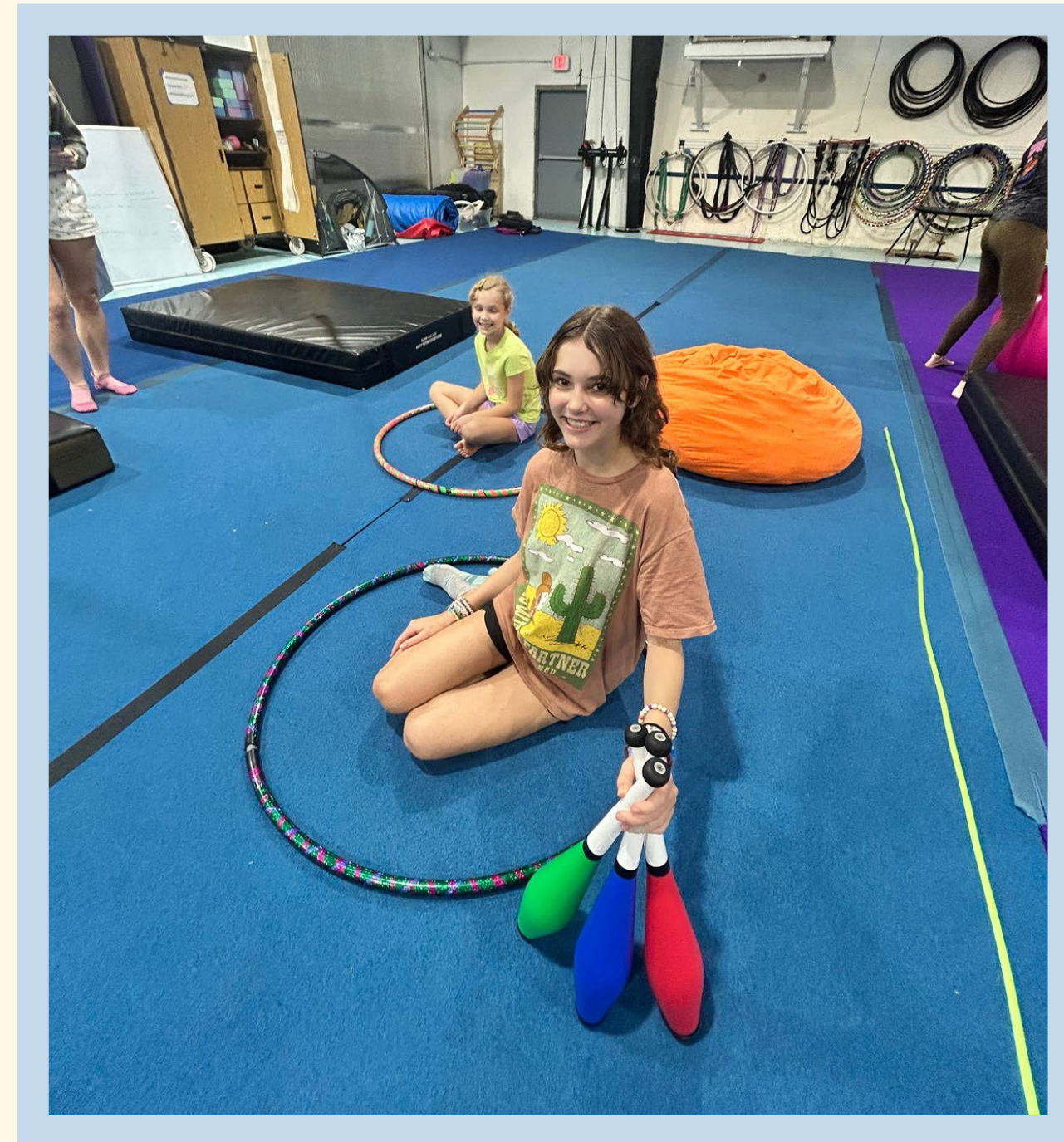
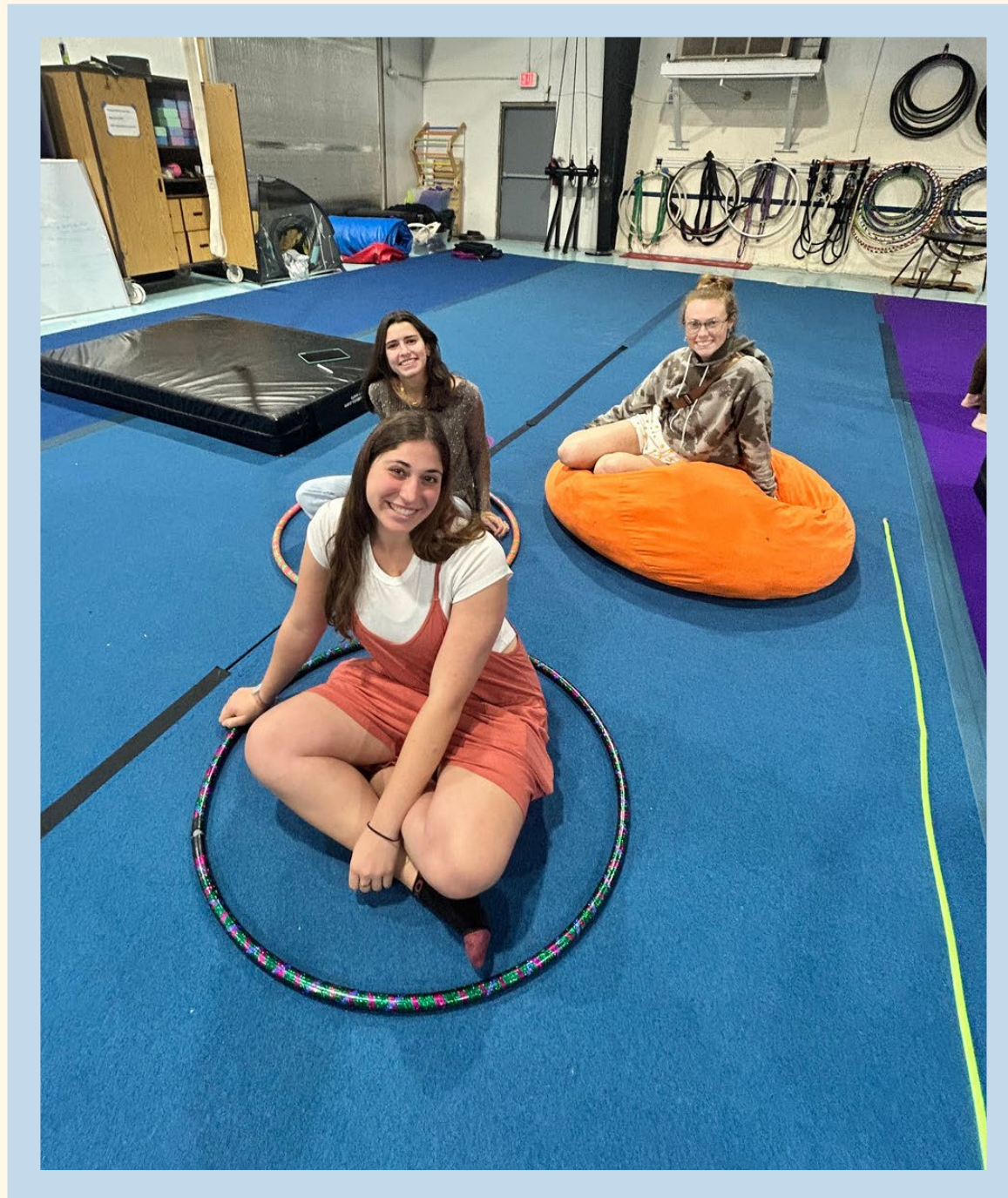
**I might also see a dog in the lobby. If I want to, I can pet and sit with the dog before or after the show.**

**He will be calm and friendly, but he might be smelly! If I feel nervous at any time, the dog might help me feel better.**





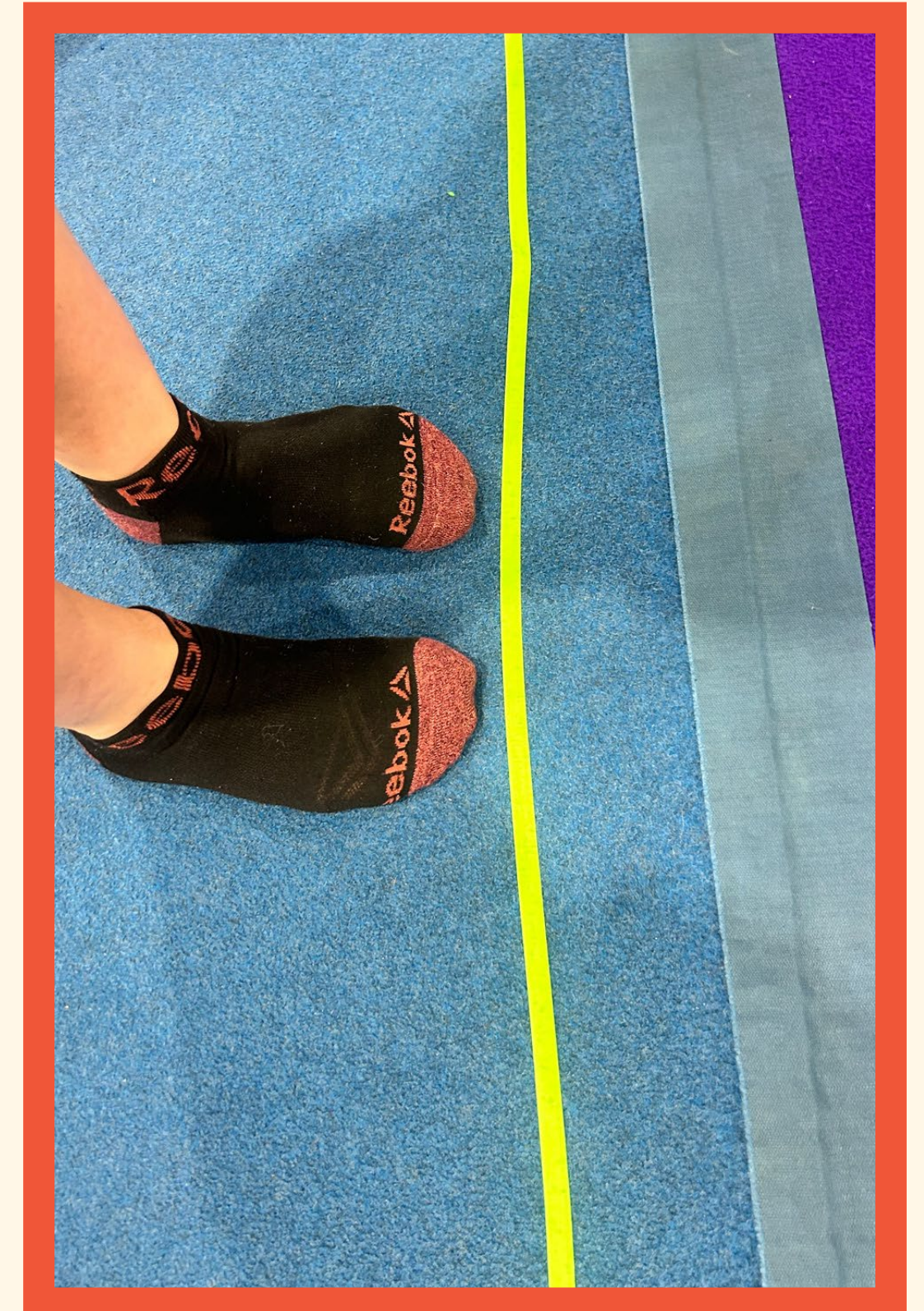
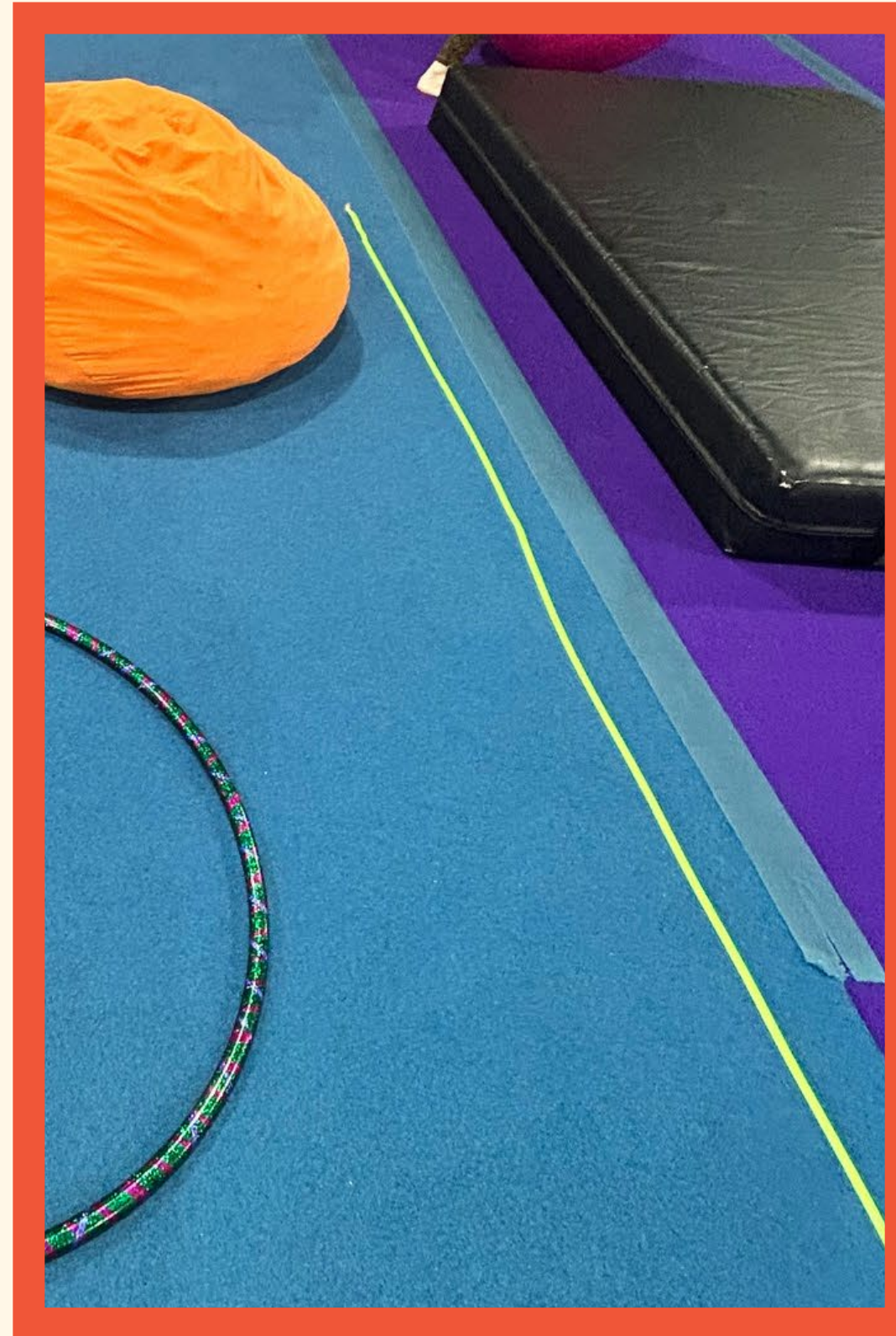
**There will be lots of comfortable places to sit!  
I can sit in hula hoops, on mats, on yoga balls, or on couches.**





**There will be neon tape on the floor that marks where the performers will be.**

**I need to stay behind the neon tape so the performers can stay safe while they do their amazing tricks.**





**Behind the performers, there will be a big black wall. I might see tall, bright lights.**

**These lights are for the show, and it's important not to touch them.**





Some of the performers might be on trapeze, silks, slings, or rings - called lyra. Others might juggle, dance, or do acrobatics.

The performers have practiced a lot, so even though it might look like they're falling, they are safe.







**On the right side of the performance area, there will be speakers. This side might be a little bit louder. If I think the music will be too loud, I can bring headphones to help make it quieter, or sit on the side further away from the speakers.**



**During the show, if I am excited I can use my “happy hands” (which means waving my hands in the air) to show the performers I like what they’re doing.**

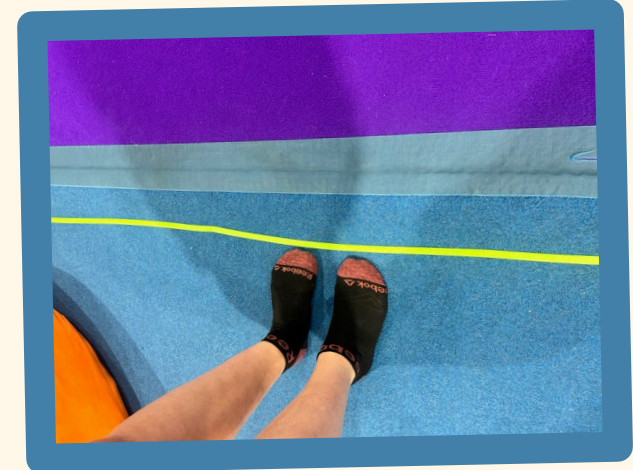
**The performers love it when I use my happy hands and have an excited face.**

**We will all clap at the end to let them know we enjoyed the show!**

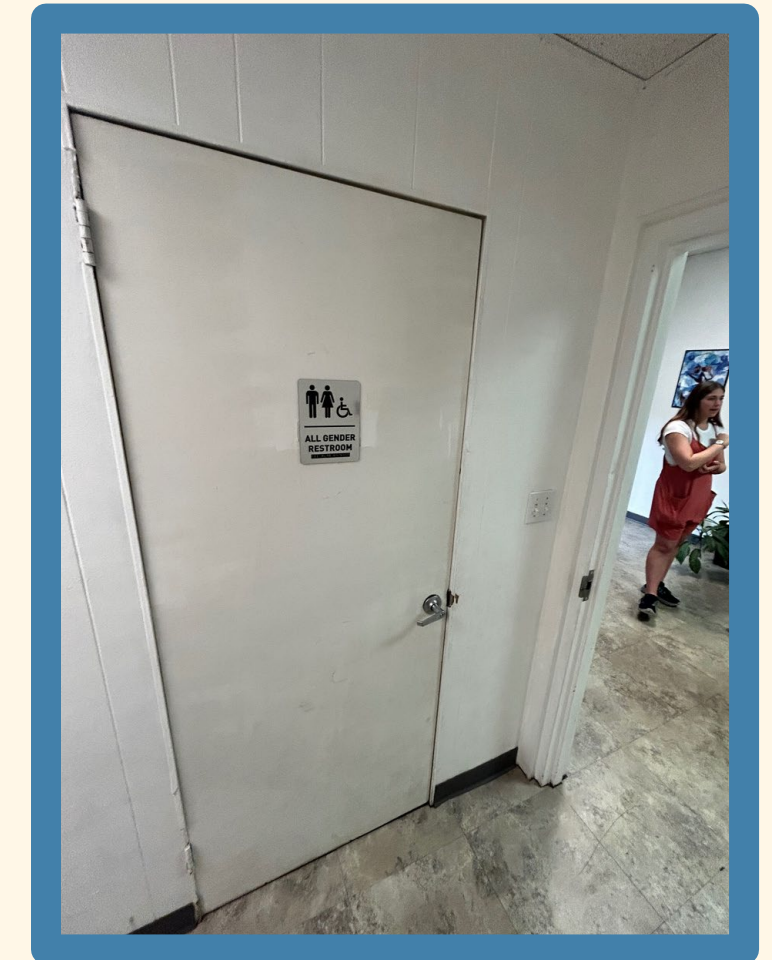
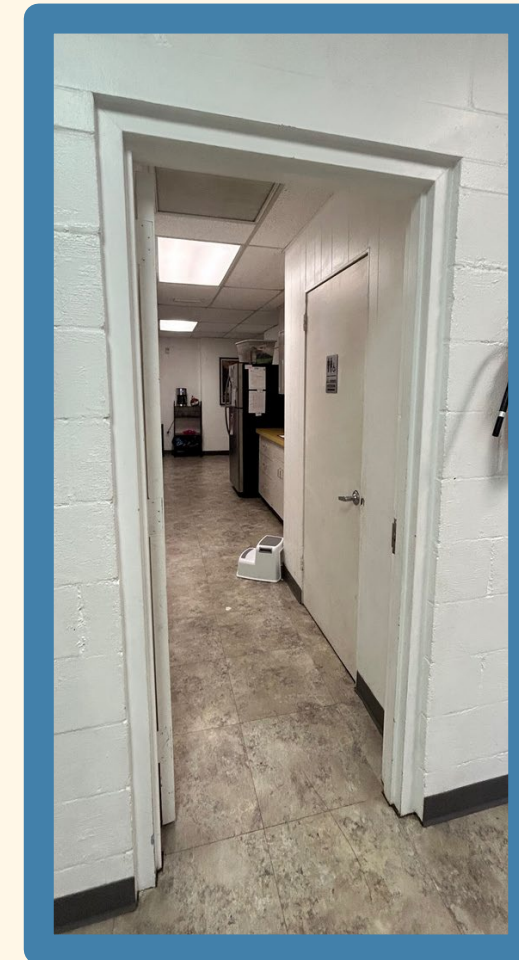
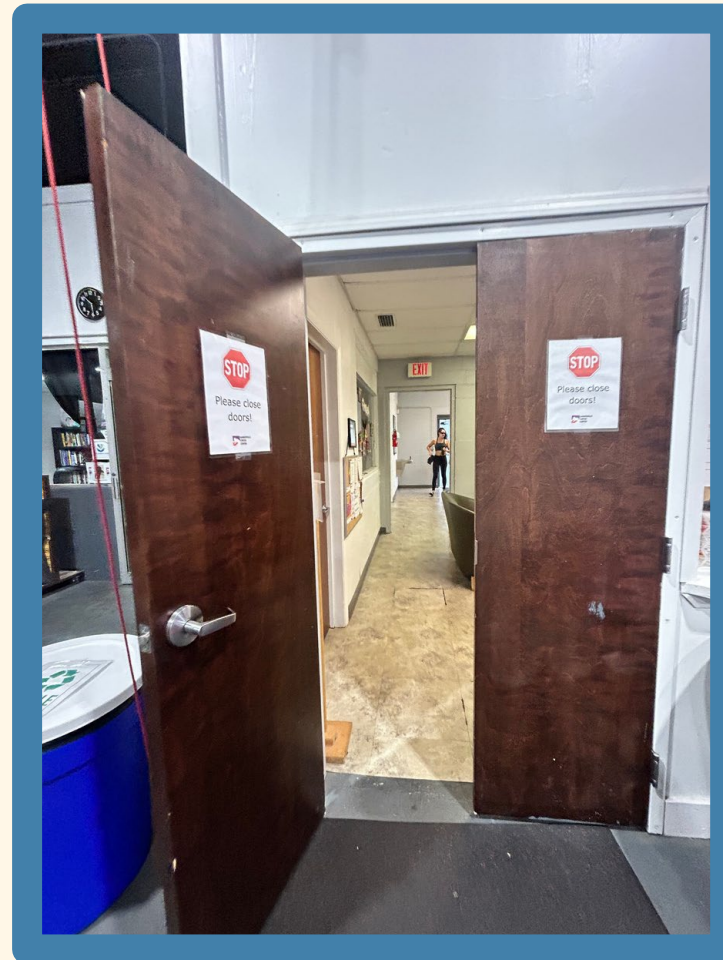




If I need to go to the bathroom during the show, I can quietly leave and walk down one of the two aisles marked by the neon tape.



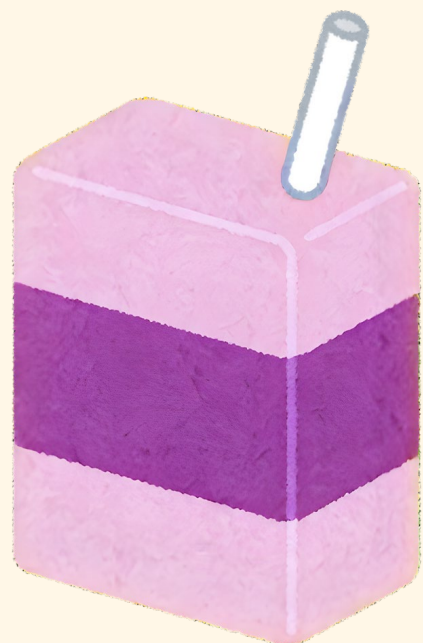
The bathroom is located in the lobby. I will remember to use just a little bit of toilet paper because the pipes are old and need to be treated gently.



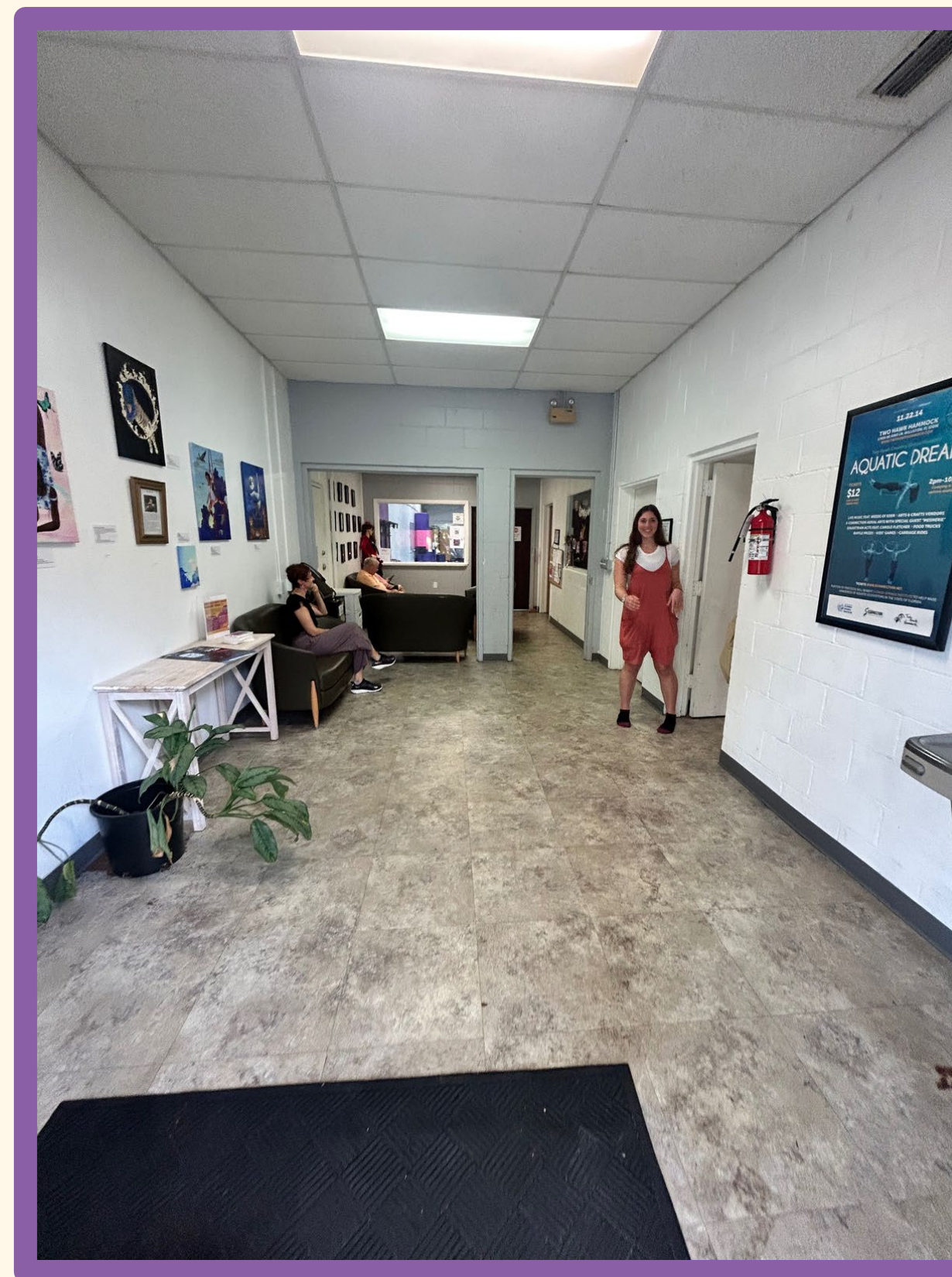
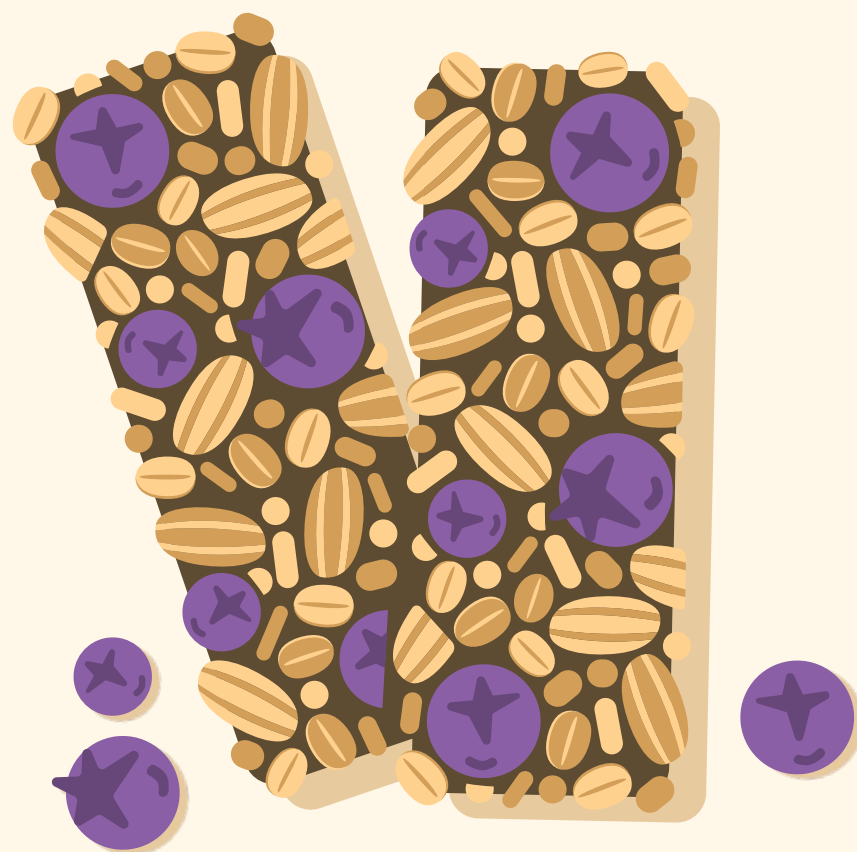
After I'm done, I can wash my hands and return to the show.







**If I get hungry or thirsty,  
I can go to the lobby to  
have a snack. It's  
important to eat in the  
lobby and not on the  
mats so we can keep the  
performance space  
clean.**





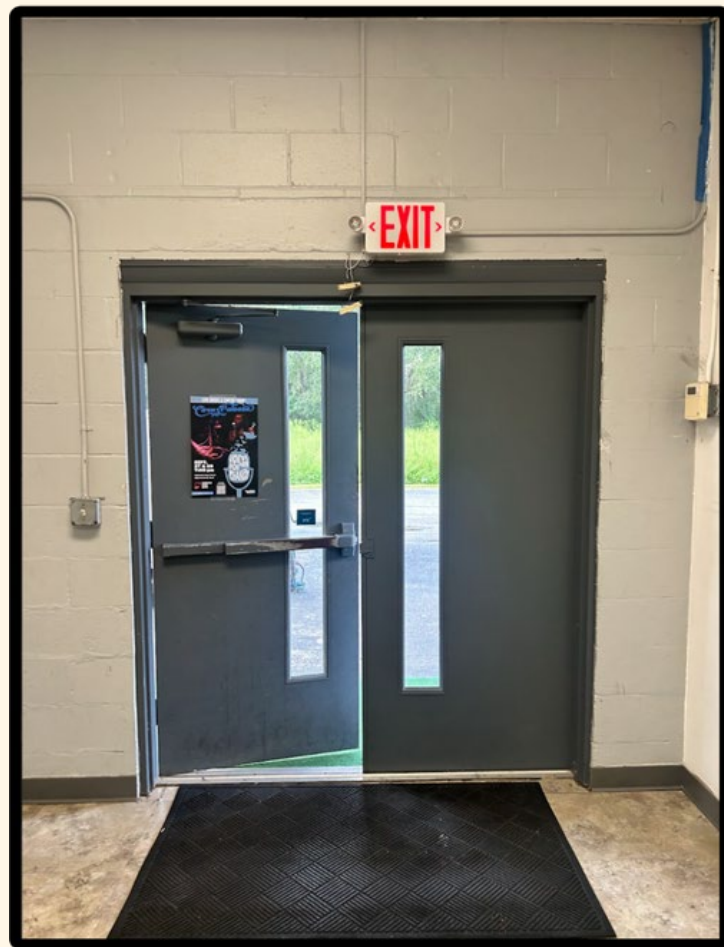
**Sometimes, I might feel excited, nervous, or even a little scared.**

**If I feel excited, I can smile and use my happy hands.**



**If I feel scared or nervous, that's okay too. I can take a deep breath and ask my family or friends to take me to the lobby. In the lobby, I can relax or visit the dog. I can play with the trains or use the cool -down tent as well. I can take a break for as long as I need.**





**After about 45 minutes,  
the show will be over. I  
will leave with happy  
memories of the  
performers and all the  
fun I had! If I want, I can  
talk about what I saw  
and how I felt.**







**I am excited to go to the  
Gainesville Circus Center  
and have a great time at  
the sensory -friendly  
show!**



**If you have questions about  
the show or need different  
accessibility from the story,  
please email  
[info@gainesvillecircus.com](mailto:info@gainesvillecircus.com).**

