

SOCIAL STORIES

WHAT ARE THEY?

HOW DO I WRITE THEM?

MY JOB

Part of my job is about sharing strategies with parents that will help their child.

Sometimes this in our therapy sessions.

I find this relaxed and easy to do.

Sometimes I share information with a group of parents or teachers.

This may be more difficult as there are lots of eyes looking at me and I have to stand up in the front.

This is okay. It is part of my job.

It is good to share information to help parents and teachers.

I will try take a deep breath if I feel nervous.

Social stories were designed by Carol Grey. In the forward in her latest book, a colleague comments that:

- Her work has reshaped autism education and therapy.
- Her work is built on the love and respect she has for the people she and others support.
- She values them as fellow humans sharing life together.
- One of the major violations that people use in social stories is to correct behavior rather than enhancing social understanding.

WHAT IS A SOCIAL STORY



Social Stories are a tool for teaching social skills by describing a social situation, giving relevant cues and defining appropriate responses.



A social story accurately describes a context, skill, achievement, or concept according to 10 criteria.

WHO ARE SOCIAL STORIES FOR AND WHY ARE THEY USEFUL?

- Originally developed for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD).
- Can be adapted for students with related social communication difficulties.
- Students with ASD may find learning social rules more difficult compared to their neurotypical peers – Social Stories make these rules explicit.
- Social Stories attempt to address the "theory of mind" difficulty by giving individuals some perspective on the thoughts, emotions, and behaviours of others.
- Present information on social situations in a structured and consistent manner in a visual format – an important approach for students with ASD or social communication difficulties.

HOW TO WRITE A SOCIAL STORY

A Social Story is usually a first-person, present-tense story used to provide a student with as much information about a social situation as possible, so he is better prepared to face, and act appropriately in that situation.

The story includes descriptive sentences and coaching sentences. There should be more descriptive sentences than coaching sentences.

Criterion 7 Activity: Seven is About Sentences

Directions: What type of sentence is it? Indicate Descriptive (D) or Coaching (C).

1. Many students in my group have ideas about our project. _____
 2. I will try to listen to the ideas of others in my group. _____
 3. Many children want to be first in line. _____
 - . I will try to stay calm when another child is first in line. _____
- Learning to drive requires some practice. _____



Can you identify descriptive sentences and coaching sentences?



How many of each in each story?



ARE YOU
READY TO
HAVE A
GO?

To get started, you need to think about the following:

- 1) Choose a situation
- 2) Choose a simple title (e.g. I can stand in a line)
- 3) Use first person text, describe the context of the situation in a few sentences, remembering the language level of the child (e.g. Sometimes people have to wait in lines. People wait in lines at shops, in restaurants and even at school.)
- 4) Describe the emotions/common responses of the individual during the situation in 2-3 sentences (e.g. Waiting in lines can be hard. Sometimes I want to skip to the front of the line or I want to yell and cry about the line. If it is really hard for me to wait in line, I can tell my parents or teachers and they will try to help me.)
- 5) Give 1-2 finishing sentences (e.g. Waiting in lines is something I will have to do sometimes. It can be hard to wait in line but I will try my best to wait.)
- 6) Re-read to ensure it makes sense.

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SOCIAL STORY

- For young children, use photos or pictures alongside your writing
- You could use symbols if you have access to Widget symbols (Communicate in Print or Boardmaker)
- Only do one story at a time with your child
- Choose a good time to read through your story with your child. Just before the targeted situation every day is a good time e.g. just before everyone lines up for break
- You should review the story e.g. if it isn't really working after two weeks, review the story.