

Social Stories

Presented by:
Elizabeth Gunn
Speech & Language Therapist



What is a Social Story?

- It is a story about a situation encountered by the child
- It describes what most of us dismiss as obvious
- It considers the world through the eyes of a child with an ASD
- It is a story which uses text and illustrations which have a reassuring quality
- It can inform, reassure, instruct, console, support, praise and correct children with ASD
- It can describe a daily routine
- Help the child cope with changes in routine
- Can be used to support behaviour
- Can be used to give positive feedback



How do we write Social Stories?

1. Picture the Goal
2. Gather information
3. Tailor the text



1. Picture the Goal

- What is the purpose of the story?
- What social understandings are needed to bring about the desired action of the child?
e.g. if we want to teach a child to brush his teeth, it is important to say why we need to.



2. Gather information

- **The next stage is to gather information about the individual.**
- **Information also needs to be gathered about the situation.**



3. Tailor the Text

A Social Story is made up of several different types of sentences that are presented in a particular combination.



Sentences are of three main types:

a) Descriptive

“Sometimes children stay indoors at break. This may happen if it is too cold or if it rains.”



b) Perspective



- “My mum will feel happy when I learn to use the toilet.”



- “The staff know when it is time for lunch.”



c) Directive



- “I will try to stay in my chair.”



- “I might try to say ‘good morning’ to my teacher”



A Social Story follows a basic ration of sentences:

- 0 – 1 directive sentences
- 2 – 5 descriptive sentences and/or perspective sentences

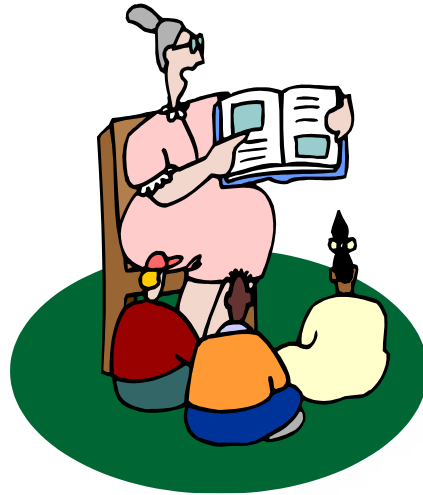


Using Social Stories

- Read stories with the child in a quiet setting with a positive, informal attitude
- Sit next to the child, share the pictures
- A Social Story takes into account the attention span and learning style of a young child with ASD



Tune in to the child's attention levels



- Some children's attention will increase with frequent repetition
- Others may become bored if the story is used regularly





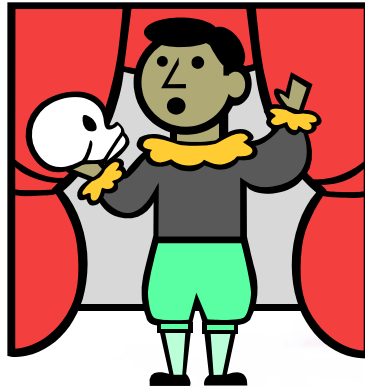
Stories for daily activities will need to be read more often.....

..... than stories about occasional events



Usually stories are read several times a day, especially immediately before the event they illustrate.

It may help add meaning if they are accompanied by role play



Examples of Social Stories

- *Sometimes when I am writing I make a mistake*
- *Sometimes other children in my class make mistakes*
- *Mrs Brown tells us to put a cross through the mistake*
- *I will try to put a cross through my mistakes and carry on with my work*
- *Mrs Brown will be pleased that I have finished my work by myself*
- *She will give me a special sticker when I cross out my mistakes and finish my work*



Examples of Social Stories

Carol Gray's "My Social Stories Book"

- *What does it mean when people say "Time for bed"?*
- *All people sleep*
- *Most people sleep on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights*
- *They wake up each morning*
- *I sleep in a bed*
- *Usually Mum or Dad says 'time for bed'. This means it is time to get ready to get into bed and go to sleep.*



Now it's your turn!



Social Stories

Presented by:

Elizabeth Gunn

Speech & Language Therapist

