Social Stories

A Tool For Social Skills Training For Individuals With ASD And Other Developmental Disorders.

Presented By
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The Information Presented Was Adopted Liberally From Carol Gray
Writing Social Stories
The Goal Of Social Stories

“Is to share accurate social information in a patient and reassuring manner that is easily understood by its audience.”

http://www.fotosearch.com/comp/ART/ART190/REL029.jpg
The Goal Of Social Stories

- The goal of social stories is not to change the individual’s behavior.
- It provides the individual improved understanding of events and expectations that may lead to more effective responses.
Achievements

Half of all social stories should affirm something that an individual does well.
What Are Social Stories?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Describe:</th>
<th>Are Useful:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Situations</td>
<td>● When social information is lacking.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Concepts</td>
<td>● When a person with ASD is misreading the situation.</td>
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<td>● Social Skills</td>
<td>● In anticipation of a troubling situation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Relevant social cues</td>
<td>● In response to a troubling situation.</td>
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<td>● Upcoming Events</td>
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<td>● Expectations</td>
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<td>● Perspectives</td>
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<td>● Common Responses</td>
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Carol Gray’s Formula For Social Story Sentence Types:

- Descriptive
- Perspective
- Affirmative
- Directive
Descriptive Sentences

- Descriptive sentences define:
  - Where a situation occurs
  - Who is involved
  - What they are doing
  - Why

- It is a truthful opinion and assumption free statement or fact.

Example.
- My name is _______.
- At school there are lots of kids to play with.
- I brush my teeth at night before I go to bed.
Perspective Sentences

- Perspective sentences refer to or describe details on the reactions and emotions of others in a given situation.

Example.
- Other kids don’t always want to play what I want to play.
- During reading time, my friends are trying hard to listen to the story so that they can learn from the lessons.
- My brother usually enjoys playing his guitar.
Affirmative Sentences

- Enhance the meaning of the other sentences by expressing a commonly shared value or opinion.

- They frequently follow descriptive, perspective, or directive sentences.

Example.
- I will try to keep my seatbelt fastened. *This is a safe thing to do.*
- After I have a B.M. I need to wipe myself. *This is okay.*
- I will stay on the sidewalk when the wind blows my paper or bag into the street. *Running onto the street can be DANGEROUS!*
Directive Sentences

- Positively state suggested responses or choices to a situation or concept.

- Gently direct the behavior of the person with ASD.

Example:
- I will work on staying on my assigned seat.

- I can try asking my classmates or teacher for help.
Formula For An Effective Social Story

- 0-1 Directive or Control sentence.
- 2-5 Descriptive, Perspective, Affirmative and Cooperative sentence.
Steps To Writing Social Stories

- Picture the Goal
- Gather Information
- Write…
  - Share…
  - Revise…
Well Written Social Stories

- Individualized to age, personality and learning style.

- Has a title that reflects the overall purpose of the story.

- Has an introduction, body and conclusion.
Well Written Social Stories

- Answers the “wh” questions.
- Usually written in first person.
- Has flexibility written into it.
- Uses positive language and positively stated responses and behaviors.
Tips For Implementing Social Stories

- Introduce, Read, and Review...in a positive, reassuring manner in a calm environment.
- Have multiple people review story with the students.
- Fad
More Tips For Implementing Social Stories

- Avoid introducing stories when the student is upset or anxious.
- Not to be used as a punitive consequence for misbehavior.
Questions And Answers

University of South Dakota, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Center for Disabilities. Social Stories, July 20, 2006 http://www.usd.edu/cd/autism/topicpage/socialstories.pdf