



What is a social story?

Social Stories are short stories that inform and advise about a social situation. They describe what may be obvious to us, but not those with different social understanding. They can help to develop appropriate behaviour, as it is easier for a pupil to comply if they understand the logic behind a social situation.

Social stories are usually written specifically for a child and will mention the child's name and age. Social stories can be written for a variety of situations at school or home, for example shouting out in assembly, or being slow to get dressed in the morning.

Why use social stories?



Studies have shown that social stories help children with social and communication differences to have a better understanding of social situations. The stories can be used to help prepare your child for a new experience e.g. moving school / class, and to help your child accustom themselves to a situation, and to respond appropriately.

The stories are particularly successful for children aged between 3 and 14.

How do I use social stories?

The story should initially be read until you believe that the message in the story has been conveyed to your child. Some personal judgement is required and you may wish to read the story either more or less, depending upon the age and ability of your child. It can be read to the child either at school or at home.

The story should be kept (we recommend that you laminate the story if possible) and read again if required. For example a social story about not always being first in line may be successful for several weeks but your child may then begin to repeat the old behaviour. In this case the story should be read immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, after the repeated behaviour.



Writing a social story

- One title, two sentences, three-part story
- An introduction that clearly identifies the topic
- A middle that adds detail
- Conclusion that encourages

Vocabulary to avoid

- Should/ shouldn't
- Must/ mustn't
- Supposed to
- Ought to know better
- It's bad/ naughty/ inappropriate
- 'most'- replace with many

Further information

- Carol Gray's website – <https://www.carolgraysocialstories.com>. The New Social Story Book: Over 150 Social Stories That Teach Everyday Social Skills to Children and Adults with Autism and Their Peers



- <https://library.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/social-stories-2/>



Going to Junior School



After the summer holidays I am going to move to the junior school.



As we get older we move up a year group, meet new grown ups and learn more.



Some things will be new.
I will go to a new building.
I will have a new teacher.
I will have a new classroom.



Some things will stay the same.
The children in my class will go too.
I will still do numeracy and literacy.
I will still wear my school clothes.



When things change I can try and keep calm.

SHOUTING OUT THE ANSWER

Shouting out the answer to a question in class is not okay.

Shouting out the answer to a question is not allowed because:

Every student needs a chance to talk and share their ideas. If one person shouts all the time, it is not fair.

Shouting out is disruptive for the teacher. It makes it harder for them to know if all the students are understanding the lesson.

It breaks the classroom rules that help keep things organised and fun for everyone.

Shouting out can stop other students thinking about the answer and learning. They may need more time to think of the answer.

Shouting out the answer can make the teacher and other students unhappy. The teacher and other adults may get cross.

Shouting out the answer is not okay. It against the rules and make other people unhappy.

