

Social Stories

Social Stories & Developmental Disabilities

Social Stories were developed predominately for individuals who have Autism or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder.

Many of the principles are useful with clients who have developmental disabilities.

General Thoughts

ABANDON ALL ASSUMPTIONS

There are two equally valid assumptions:

YOURS

THE STUDENT WITH AUTISM

A Social Story

Why do Social Stories Work?

Visual

Provide accurate information

Identify relevant social cues

Describe expected behaviors

Subtract social interference

Descriptive Sentences

Explain what occurs and why

Paint the backdrop of the social story

Point out relevant features

Often begins a social story

Example: My name is Chad. I work at XYZ Company. I live in a brown home.

Directive Sentences

Individualized statements of desired responses or social skills.

Often follow descriptive sentences, telling a child what is expected as a response to a given cue or response.

Often begins with " I can..." or " I will..."

Example: I will talk quietly when inside.
I can talk quietly when others are sleeping.

Perspective Sentences

Describe the reactions of other people in a target social situation.

They may relay the feelings of others depicted in a social story.

They should be honest statements.

Examples: The workers should walk quietly so they don't disturb people working in other rooms. Some people have fun at work.

The Basic Social Story Ratio

0-1 Directive sentence

2-5 descriptive and/or perspective sentences

Basic Steps to Writing Social Stories

Target a situation

Gather information

Share observations

Support new responses and/or revise story based on student's response



Writing Social Stories- Con' t

Use caution with illustrations

Consider " Wh" questions as titles and subtitles

Be specific. Use " sometimes" and " usually" , state desired responses carefully

Consider incorporating student interest

Reinforcing Concepts in a Social Story

Accompanying audio cassette tapes

Bookmarks

Signs

Posted illustrations

Group home social stories