

Checklist for drafting a Social Story.

action	date and notes	progress
Identify the topic		
Gather information		
Assess person's understanding		
Identify context, goal and set specific target		
Draft Social Story (with visual cues)		

Social Story Checklist.

Compare your story with the list to check that what has been developed is a Social Story.

1. The story meaningfully shares social information with a patient and reassuring quality.(a story developed to teach a new concept should have another to praise the person's positive qualities).
2. The story has an introduction that clearly identifies the topic, a body that adds detail and a conclusion that reinforces and summarises information.
3. The story provides the answers to “wh” questions, describing
 - The setting or context (**where**),
 - Time related (**when**),
 - Relevant people (**who**)
 - Important cues (**what**)
 - Basic activities, behaviours or statements, (**how**)
 - Reasons and rationales behind them (**why**)
4. The story is written from the first person perspective, or a third person perspective.
5. The story uses positive language, identifying positive responses rather than descriptions of challenging behaviour.
6. The story is comprised of descriptive sentences(**statements of fact**) with the option of any one or more of the following sentence types
 - Perspective sentences. (describes thoughts, feelings of others)
 - Cooperative sentences (explains what others will do to support)
 - Directive sentences (identify suggested responses)
 - Affirmative sentences Enhance the meaning of surrounding sentences)
 - Control sentences developed by the person to help them recall or apply the story
7. Follows Social Story Formula:
 - Describe.**
 - (descriptive+perspective+cooperative+affirmative sentences
 - >
 - Direct** (directive and control sentences)
8. The story matches the ability and interests of the audience and is literally accurate
9. If Appropriate uses illustrations that are meaningful to the person and enhance the meaning of the text.
10. The title of the story meets Social Story Criteria

(Reproduced for therapeutic use from Carol Gray in Revealing the Social Code.)

What do we do when Social stories don't work?

- Don't give up but check the guidelines and redraft.
- Try adding or amending visual cues.
- Check you use of language
- Consider individualisation and motivational factors.
- Reassess the situation with further information gathering in order to set specific targets.
- Write a series of social stories to break down information in to smaller more comfortable steps.
- Consider the reactions of the person you have written the Social Story for.