



Comparison of Social Stories™ 10.0 – 10.2 Criteria

Social Stories were formally introduced in *Social Stories: Improving Responses of Students with Autism with Accurate Information*, in Focus on Autistic Behavior (Gray & Garand, 1993). The article listed Social Story Guidelines, which became defining characteristics (criteria) in Social Stories 10.0 (2004). Subsequent revisions and reorganization resulted in Social Stories 10.1 (2010) and Social Stories 10.2 (2014). Since the beginning, the Social Story 'basics' have remained the same. Over time, research and experience has resulted in increased detail and reorganization. Similar to the Criteria, the definition of a Social Story (not listed here) is periodically updated with the Criteria to reflect shifts in emphasis and detail.

Social Stories 10.0 (2004)

- #1 *The Goal*. A Social Story meaningfully shares social information with a patient and reassuring quality, and at least 50% of all Social Stories applaud achievements.
- #2 A Social Story has an introduction that clearly identifies the topic, a body that adds detail, and a conclusion that reinforces and summarizes the information.
- #3 A Social Story answers 'wh' questions.
- #4 A Social Story is written from a first or third person perspective.
- #5 A Social Story uses positive language.
- #6 A Social Story always contains descriptive sentences, with an option to include any one or more of the five remaining sentence types (perspective, cooperative, directive, affirmative, and/or control sentences).
- #7 A Social Story describes more than directs, following the Social Story formula.
- #8 A Social Story has a format that is tailored to the abilities and interests of its audience, and is usually literally accurate. (Considerations include Story length; organization and sentence structure; repetition, rhythm, and rhyme; modifications in vocabulary and literal accuracy including careful selection of verbs and alternative vocabulary; and possible use of metaphors or analogies if they are understood by the audience.)
- #9 A Social Story may contain individually tailored illustrations that enhance the meaning of the text.
- #10 A Social Story title meets all applicable Social Story criteria.

Social Stories 10.1 (2010)

- #1 *The Goal*. The goal of a Social Story is to share accurate information using a process, format, voice, and vocabulary that is descriptive, meaningful, and physically, socially, and emotional safe for the Audience. Every Social Story has an overall patient and reassuring tone.
- #2 *Two-Step Discovery*. Keeping the goal in mind, Authors gather relevant information to 1) improve their understanding of the Audience in relation to a situation, skill, or concept, and/or 2) identify the specific topic(s) and type(s) of information to share in the Story.
- #3 *Three Parts and a Title*. A Social Story has a title and introduction that clearly identifies the topic, a body that adds detail, and a conclusion that reinforces and summarizes the information.
- #4 *FOURmat*. A Social Story has a format that clarifies content and enhances meaning for the Audience.
- #5 *Five Factors Define Voice and Vocabulary*. A Social Story has a patient and supportive "voice" and vocabulary that is defined by five factors. These factors are: 1. First- or Third-Person Perspective; 2. Positive and Patient Tone; 3. Past, Present, and/or Future Tense; 4. Literal Accuracy; and 5. Accurate Meaning.
- #6 *Six Questions Guide Story Development*. A Social Story answers relevant "wh" questions, describing the context (where); time-related information (when); relevant people (who); important cues (what); basic activities, behaviors, or statements (how); and the reasons and/or rationale behind them (why).
- #7 *Seven Types of Social Story Sentences*. A Social Story is comprised of Descriptive Sentences with an option to include any one or more of the following sentence types: Perspective Sentences; Three Sentences that Coach (Audience, Team, Self); Affirmative Sentences, and Partial Sentences.
- #8 *A GR-EIGHT Formula*. One Formula and Seven Sentence Types ensure that every Social Story describes more than directs.
- #9 *Nine Makes It Mine*. Whenever possible, a Social Story is tailored to the individual preferences, talents, and interests of its Audience.
- #10 *Ten Guides to Editing and Implementation*. The Ten Guides to Editing and Implementation ensure that the goal that guides Social Story development is also evident in its editing and use.

Social Stories 10.2 (2014)

- #1 *The Social Story Goal*. Authors follow a defined process to share accurate information using a content, format, and voice that is descriptive, meaningful, and physically, socially, and emotionally safe for the Audience.
- #2 *Two-Step Discovery*. Authors gather information to 1) improve their understanding of the Audience in relation to a situation, skill, or concept and 2) identify the topic and focus of each Story/Article. At least 50% of all Social Stories applaud achievements.
- #3 *Three Parts and a Title*. A Social Story/Article has a *title and introduction* that clearly identifies the topic, a *body* that adds detail, and a *conclusion* that reinforces and summarizes the information.
- #4 *FOURmat*. The Social Story format is tailored to the *individual* abilities, attention span, learning style and - whenever possible - talents and/or interests of its Audience.
- #5 *Five Factors Define Voice and Vocabulary*. A Social Story™/Article has a patient and supportive "voice" and vocabulary that is defined by five factors. These factors are: 1) First- or Third-Person Perspective; 2) Past, Present, and/or Future Tense; 3) Positive and Patient Tone; 4) Literal Accuracy; and 5) Accurate Meaning.
- #6 *Six Questions Guide Story Development*. A Social Story answers relevant 'wh' questions that describe context, including place (WHERE), time-related information (WHEN), relevant people (WHO), important cues (WHAT), basic activities, behaviors, or statements (HOW), and the reasons or rationale behind them (WHY).
- #7 *Seven is About Sentences*. A Social Story is comprised of Descriptive Sentences, as well as optional Coaching Sentences. Descriptive Sentences accurately describe relevant aspects of context, including external and internal factors, while adhering to all applicable Social Story Criteria.
- #8 *A GR-EIGHT Formula*. One Formula ensures that every Social Story describes more than directs.
- #9 *Nine to Refine*. A story draft is always reviewed and revised if necessary to ensure that it meets all defining Social Story criteria.
- #10 *Ten Guides to Implementation*. The Ten Guides to Implementation ensure that the Goal that guides Story/Article development is also evident in its use. They are: 1) Plan for Comprehension; 2) Plan Story Support; 3) Plan Story Review; 4) Plan a Positive Introduction; 5) Monitor; 6) Organize the Stories; 7) Mix & Match to Build Concepts; 8) Story Re-runs and Sequels to Tie Past, Present, and Future; 9) Recycle Instruction into Applause; 10) Stay Current on Social Story Research and Updates.



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