Social Stories™ 10.2

- Carol Gray

CAROL GRAY
SOCIAL STORIES

The Social Story Philosophy

Every Social Story has roots in a five-part philosophy that:

- *Abandons all assumptions.* Many of the assumptions that parents and professionals make when interpreting the behavior of a person with autism are inaccurate. Abandoning assumptions in favor of gathering accurate information is essential to discovering more effective responses, which in turn improve the daily experiences of those with autism in our care.

- *Regards the 'social impairment in autism' as shared.* In the dictionary, the word 'social' requires two people. A social impairment is the equal responsibility of all those attempting to engage in an interaction, or seeking to establish a relationship.

- *Recognizes that the perspective of people who are typical, and people diagnosed with autism, are equally valid but at times different.* Working from a premise where "everyone is right" leaves one option; to gather accurate information about how a situation is perceived by either party, and respectfully share it s

- *Never argues perception.* With the perspective of both parties regarded as equally valid, arguing perception is not possible. This makes room for healthier alternate solutions.

- *Understands that curiosity is confusion with a good attitude.* Remaining curious when confused by the response or behavior of a person with autism makes it impossible say, "We've tried everything." The truth is that we've tried everything that we currently know, and we can think again.

-

Social Story 10.2 Definition

A Social Story accurately describes a context, skill, achievement, or concept according to 10 defining criteria. These criteria guide Story research, development, and implementation to ensure an overall patient and supportive quality, and a format, 'voice', content, and learning experience that is descriptive, meaningful, respectful, and physically, socially, and emotionally safe for the Story audience (a child, adolescent, or adult).

Criterion 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.

.

Criterion 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 the most critical information (focus) of each Story. At least 50% of all Social Stories applaud achievements.

Criterion 3: Three-Parts & 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.

Criterion 4: Four·mat Makes it Mine!

The Social Story™ format is tailored to the individual abilities, attention span, learning style and - whenever possible – talents and/or interests of its Audience.

Criterion 5: Five Factors Define Voice & Vocabulary

A Social Story has a patient and supportive "voice" and vocabulary that is defined by five factors:

1) Exclusive use of first- and/or third-person perspective statements (no second person statements);

2) Past, present, or future tense;

3) Positive and patient tone;

4) Literally accurate; and

5) Accurate meaning.

Criterion 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).

Criterion 7: Seven is About Sentences

A Social Story is comprised of Descriptive Sentences and may also have one or more Coaching Sentence(s). Sentences adhere to all applicable 10.2 criteria.

Descriptive Sentences accurately describe relevant aspects of context, including external and/or internal factors while adhering to all applicable Social Story Criteria. They are free of assumption or bias, judgment, devaluation, or unidentified opinion

Coaching Sentences gently guide behavior via descriptions of effective Team or Audience responses, or structured Audience Self-Coaching, adhering to all other applicable Social Story Criteria.

#8 A Gr·eight! Formula

The Social Story™ Formula ensures that every Social Story describes more than directs.

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of Descriptive Sentences}}{\text{Total \# of Coaching Sentences}} \geq 2$$

*If there are no (0) Sentences that Coach, use 1 in the denominator.

Criterion 9: Nine to Refine

The first draft of a story is rarely the final draft. A story draft is always reviewed by relevant caregivers and revised if necessary to ensure that it meets all defining Social Story criteria.

Criterion 10: Ten Guides to Editing and Implementation

The Ten Guides to Implementation ensure that the philosophy and Criteria that guide Story/Article development are consistent with how it is introduced and reviewed with the Audience. 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