



CAROL GRAY
SOCIAL STORIES

Social Stories 10.3 Criteria

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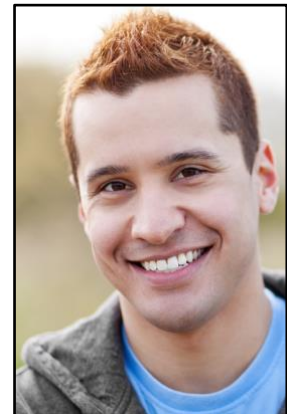
Please Note: Two things to keep in mind as you review the Social Stories 10.3 Criteria:

- For efficiency, the capitalized terms *Social Story* and *Story* refer to Social Stories and their advanced counterpart, *Social Articles*.
- To clarify Social Story terms, *Authors* (often parents, family members, friends, or professionals) write Stories for an *Audience* (a child, adolescent, or adult in their care).
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The Social Stories 10.3 Criteria: Overview and Introduction

The criteria that define what is and what is not a Social Story are periodically reviewed and updated to keep pace with research and experience. Social Stories 10.3 is new on several fronts, including:

- A name, *Social Humility*, for the philosophy that has been the foundation for Social Stories since their introduction in 1991;
- Inclusion of Social Humility as part of the 1st Criterion with a revised Social Story Definition and Goal;
- Introduction of Descriptive and Coaching Sentences in the 3rd Criterion, earlier in the process of learning to write a Social Story;
- A revised 5th Criterion with strong language that requires comprehensive respect for the perception, experience, feelings, and rights of the Story Audience;
- A celebrating 7th Criterion that specifies at least half of all Stories for any Audience must applaud achievements or celebrate established talents, abilities, and positive qualities; and
- An 8th Criterion that requires more description and less direction, with a Story Rating of 3 and a limit of one Sentence that Coaches the Audience per Story.



1st Criterion: One Social Story Philosophy, Definition, and Goal

One Philosophy, one Definition, and one Goal guide the research, development, and implementation of every Social Story.

- Philosophy: The Social Story philosophy, Social Humility, is the opposite of social arrogance and prerequisite to researching, developing, and implementing every Social Story. Social Humility has five elements that recognize that:
 1. the social impairment that surrounds autism is shared;
 2. each person's perception is valid and deserving of respect;
 3. curiosity is confusion with a good attitude:
 4. arguing perception is counter-productive; and
 5. abandoning all assumptions helps caregivers respond effectively to the children, adolescents, or adults in their care, whether it is with a Story or alternate solution.
- Definition: Recognizing that every human experience and perspective is unique and valid, and that social impairments and their solutions are shared, a Social Story accurately describes a personally relevant topic (often a context, skill, achievement, or concept) according to ten 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).
- Goal: In line with Social Humility and the Social Story Definition, the Goal of a Social Story is to ensure that the intended message remains intact from Author to Audience.

2nd Criterion: Two-Step Discovery

Each Social Story begins with two-step discovery:

1. Authors gather relevant information to improve their understanding of the Audience in relation to a situation, skill, or concept and then

2. identify the specific topic(s) and the most critical information (focus) of each Story or an alternate non-Story solution.

3rd Criterion: One Title, Two Types of Sentences, and Three-Parts.

A Social Story™ has one title, a maximum of two types of sentences, and three parts.

1. A Social Story title meaningfully represents the topic.
2. A Social Story is comprised of Descriptive Sentences and may also have one or more Coaching Sentence(s). All sentences adhere to all applicable 10.3 criteria. Descriptive Sentences accurately describe relevant aspects of context, both external and 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 via descriptions of effective Team or Audience responses, or structured Audience Self-Coaching, adhering to all other applicable Criteria.
3. A Social Story has three parts: An introduction that describes the topic, a body that adds detail, and a conclusion that reinforces and summarizes the information.

4th Criterion: FOURmat Makes It Mine!

Authors tailor each Social Story™ format to the abilities, attention span, learning style and, whenever possible, talents and interests of the Audience.

5th Criterion: Five Factors Define Voice & Vocabulary

A Social Story has a patient and supportive “voice” and vocabulary defined by five factors:

1. use of first or third-person statements; second-person statements are not allowed. (Second-person statements are at risk of expressing Author assumptions or contributing to a judgmental tone);
2. description/ demonstration of the connections between related past, present, and future events;
3. a consistently Socially Humble, positive, and patient quality throughout the Story;
4. literally accurate vocabulary and phrasing; and

5. a careful selection of words to accurately represent the intended meaning, with special attention to verbs. (Analogies and metaphors are allowed if the Audience understands their purpose.)

6th Criterion: Six Questions Guide Story Development

A Social Story™ answers relevant 'WH' questions that describe the context, including the place (WHERE), time-related information (WHEN), relevant people (WHO), important cues (WHAT), activities, responses, or statements (HOW), and the reasons or rationale behind them (WHY). The topic may increase the importance of some "WH" questions and minimize or eliminate the need for others.

7th Criterion: Seven Celebrates

A minimum of 50% of all Social Stories developed for an Audience praise what the Audience is doing well. Social Stories make celebration a habit!

A Social Story that celebrates:

- often expands and alters the Author's perspective;
- adds meaning because it structures how we praise, replacing "good job" with relevant detail;
- affirms the Audience, including unique interests and traits;
- makes praise permanent (vs. verbal praise that disappears);
- keeps the Audience engaged and more receptive to challenging Stories; and
- builds self-esteem.

8th Criterion: A Gr-Eight Formula!

One Formula ensures that every Social Story describes more than directs. In every Social Story, Descriptive Sentences appear at least three times as often as Coaching Sentences, with a maximum of one Sentence that Coaches the Audience per Story.

Social Story Formula: Social Stories have a Story Rating of 3 or more,
and contain a maximum of one Sentence that Coaches the Audience.

DESCRIBE: Total number of
Descriptive Sentences. Title must
be a Descriptive Sentence.

_____ = STORY RATING \geq 3

*COACH: Total number of
Coaching Sentences, with no
more than one Sentence that
Coaches the Audience

9th Criterion: Nine to Refine

Every Social Story is reviewed and revised until it meets the ten Social Story Criteria.

10th Criterion: Criterion 10: Ten Guides to Implementation

The Ten Guides to Implementation ensure that Social Humility and the ten Criteria that guide Story development are consistent with its introduction and review over time. 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; and
10. stay current on Social Story research and updates.