



Social Stories

Social stories were created by Carol Gray in 1991. (The terms social story and social stories are trademarks originating from and owned by Carol Gray).

They are used to describe a particular event, activity or situation. They help children and young people (CYP) to understand what to expect in that situation and why.

They can also help the CYP with sequencing, planning and organising.

What can they help with?

- Social skills
- Self-care skills
- Changes in routine
- Behavioural strategies
- New places
- Special events

Example from Bader Academy:

Example:

Sharing and Taking Turns

Sometimes at school, I have to share and take turns.

I can share my school supplies.

I can share my toys.

I can share with my teachers and my class.

I can take turns with my teachers and my class.

Sharing and taking turns makes my friends happy.

Comic Strip 'Science is Dangerous'



Panel 1: I would like to see this Science experiment!

Panel 2: Listen really carefully and follow instructions from the teacher.

Panel 3: Rules: 1. Listen really carefully and follow instructions from the teacher. 2. Science can be fun if we can be safe.

Panel 4: I would like to see this Science experiment!

Panel 5: I really have to follow instructions given to me. Safe!

Panel 6: I don't follow the instructions given and I am not being safe in the Science Room. I will have to leave as I could get hurt or hurt somebody else. Really bad!

Panel 7: I could use science to make something that is dangerous and fire!

Panel 8: I could use science to make something that is dangerous and fire!

Comic Strip 'Good Friend or Bad Friend'



Panel 1: I would like to make a new friend...

Panel 2: I would like to make a new friend...

Panel 3: I would like to make a new friend...

Panel 4: I would like to make a new friend...

Panel 5: I would like to make a new friend...

Panel 6: I would like to make a new friend...

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Panel 100: I would like to make a new friend...

How to write a social story

1. **Identify the goal**- what do they need to understand to achieve this?
2. **Gather information about the situation**- when does it occur, where, with who, what happens and why, when does it start and end etc.
3. **Gather information about the person it is for**- interests, level of ability and understanding etc
4. **Include a title, body and conclusion**
5. **Include descriptive sentences** e.g. There is a pedestrian crossing outside my house
6. **Include coaching sentences** e.g. I need to hold an adult's hand when crossing the road
7. **Include appropriate pictures or symbols to aid understanding**

Resources:

[Social stories and comic strip conversations \(autism.org.uk\)](https://www.autism.org.uk)

[Social Story Sampler - Carol Gray - Social Stories \(carolgraysocialstories.com\)](https://www.carolgraysocialstories.com)

[Social Stories - Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust \(sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk\)](https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk)

[What is a Social Story? - Answered - Twinkl Teaching Wiki](https://www.twinkl.com)

[Visual supports \(autism.org.uk\)](https://www.autism.org.uk)