

Teacher's Guide

Supporting the wellbeing of primary school children

Social stories



Social stories are helpful for students who have difficulty understanding social interactions, communicating with peers and / or behaving appropriately in social situations.

A social story is used to describe a specific situation, outline the events that may occur, what behaviours would be expected of them and the possible outcomes.

Social stories can be presented in a variety of formats, including hard copy, audio or on screen and can be developed for individuals or a group of students.

Components

Generally all social stories have the following components:

- A goal that aims to address a specific behaviour and / or social situation.
- Is authentic to the experience and current situation of the student.
- Is tailored to the abilities of the student.
- Written in a positive and patient, 1st or 3rd person voice with appropriate vocabulary.
- Describes expected or effective responses and / or possible choices.

Example

When someone is hurting or annoying me, I will:

1. Look at them.
2. Put my hand up in a 'stop' sign.
3. Say to the person, "Stop it, I don't like it."
4. If it does not work I will get help from a teacher.

If the behaviour persists despite trying a number of interventions, discuss the student's situation with a supervisor or member of the learning and wellbeing support staff at your school.

<https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/school-link-teachers-guide>