Using Social Stories

Social stories are simple stories that describe a social situation and how the student is expected to behave in that situation.

- Social stories combine language, routines and social expectations on a personal level to provide a relevant and accurate orientation to a particular social situation.
- They can guide and direct a student's response and can support the development of increased self-awareness and self-management.

To develop social stories:

- identify a target behaviour or problem situation which has or may occur, or a skill to be developed
- consider student's developmental level and use positive language, print size and concepts appropriate for that student
- write from the student's point of view in present or future tense; e.g., "I will …"
- develop a specific step-by-step description of what the student needs to do in this situation
- use photos and pictures and, if possible, have students illustrate and/or co-write their own stories

To use social stories in the classroom:

- read and review the story with the student frequently and in different contexts
- teach the skill embedded in the social story directly and create opportunities to practise.

For further information on developing social stories see Carol Gray's website The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding *http://carolgraysocialstories.com/social-stories/*

Getting a Person's Attention

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