



Social Narratives

DEFINITION

Social narratives are a simple story that visually represent social situations and appropriate replacement behaviors.

WHAT SKILLS CAN WE TEACH?

- What to do when you need help
- How to get your friends attention appropriately
- What events to expect on a community trip and how we can get what we need
- Reading our friend social cues (how close is too close, what to do when my friend is sad, etc)
- Why we need to eat healthy, take a shower, brush teeth, etc.
- Preparing learners for transitions (one class to another, switching schools/grades, riding the bus, etc.)

Kyle's Sniffing Story

My name is Kyle. I am in high school and I will graduate soon and have a

job. I like to smell things. It makes me feel good. When I am out in the

community, there are lots of things that smell good but it makes other

people feel uncomfortable if I smell them and get in their space. If I do

this at my job, I might get fired. I don't want that to happen. When I

want to smell something, I can smell my perfume samples in my pocket.

This makes me feel good and the people around me feel safe!

CORONAVIRUS

Why do I have to stay at home?

A social narrative for children

© Autism Little Learners

Sometimes people get sick. Little things called germs make people sick.

TEACH THE LEARNER

- Pair with reinforcement when student does replacement behavior
- Use BEFORE behavior occurs, not in the middle of a behavior
- Pair with positive interactions with staff
- Talk about the story and pictures and help the student make those self-connections
- Decide when the story will be read, and stick to it!
- Model the language throughout the learner's day
- Share the story with parents and other teachers

WRITING A SOCIAL NARRATIVE

In our social story, we want to draw our learners attention to these key components:

- The situation or event
- What the individual with ASD thinks, feels, does, or says in this situation
- What others may think, feel, do, or say in this situation
- The appropriate replacement behavior
- How the better behavior/appropriate response will benefit the person with ASD
- When and where the behavior should be displayed
- The reasoning behind why this is an appropriate response

We want to make sure we...

- Positively frame the narrative
- Personalize the story
- Use language and reading levels that are appropriate for your learners

ILLUSTRATING A SOCIAL NARRATIVE

Include pictures of:

- The class or location of the situation
- The learner engaging in the replacement behavior
- Symbols, real pictures, peers (with permission), teachers, the student

Make sure graphics are socially appropriate, age appropriate, and accurately depict the situation.

IMPORTANT: USE AS PART OF AN INTERVENTION PACKAGE!

There is not enough research to conclude that Social Narratives alone are always effective!! They are most effective when paired with other strategies and used as part of an intervention package!

We can use Social Narratives in conjunction with:

- Reinforcement
- Modeling/Video Modeling
- Prompting
- Extinction
- Antecedent Based Interventions
 - Learner Preference
 - Choice making
- Contingency Maps
- Functional communication training
- Behavior Contracts
- Visual Schedule
- Visual Rules/Descriptions

RESOURCES

- Take our [1 hr workshop on Social Narratives](#) where we cover all of the components of social narratives, provide examples and give you step by step instructions on how to create social narratives!
- Teacherspayteachers has many free social story resources available that you can print and use in your classroom for many different situations.
- [Writing and using social narratives in all environments created by Indiana Resource Center for Autism](#)



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