

The Basics for Writing a Social Story

Social stories are a short description of a situation that provides details about what to expect and why. It often includes a student's current reactions to a situation and the expected replacement behaviors. Social stories are written to be age and ability appropriate and should include terms like "usually" or "sometime" instead of "always" when discussing the student's feelings or behaviors. These stories are typically written in present tense to describe events as they take place but may be written to describe events that will take place in the future. A student's current emotional and behavioral responses are included in the story along with appropriate replacement/alternate behaviors. Social stories may include illustrations depending on the needs of the student.

Social Stories should include the following information:

1. who, what and where,
2. statement of current and desired responses and
3. reactions and feelings of the student and others involved.