

TOP TIPS FOR USING SOCIAL STORIES

1. Take time to look at each Social Story before introducing it to a young child. Decide whether it needs to be modified in any way in order to address your child's individual needs or interests.
2. When reading a Social Story for the first time, consider sitting beside and slightly behind your child with both your attention jointly focused on the Story.
3. While reading the Social Story to your child for the first time, do not draw attention to your own facial expressions or gestures. These may be gradually introduced as the Story becomes more familiar.
4. Think about where and when you read a Social Story. It is always best to read a Social Story in a quiet place with a positive, casual and reassuring attitude. Avoid sharing a Story while a child is upset, or using a Story as a follow-up to misbehaviour.
5. The number of times you read a Social Story to a child depends on many factors. The most important things to help you decide will be your judgement along with your child's level of attention. For some children regular reading and re-reading of a Story will increase attention and interest, other children will become bored if a Story is presented too many times.
6. The Story topic will also help you to decide how often a Story is revisited. For example, a Story describing a daily event such as toileting may cause you to reach for it much more often than a play Story.
7. Remember, you may be able to make your own Social Story or adapt one of the examples we have provided. Just remember to keep sentences short and to the point and include lots of pictures or drawings.