



The Teacher's Tech Tips:

Social Stories

Maybe you have asked yourself any or all of the following questions when someone has mentioned social stories:

What are they?

How can they help in the classroom?

Aren't social stories only for children with Autism?

Let's talk truth about social stories...

Carol Gray is credited with developing Social Stories when she was teaching students with Autism 30 years ago! The idea is used by many professions that work with individuals of varying abilities, not just Autism.

The term "social story" sometimes implies something complicated. "Stories" are hard to write, right?!? Not so. A social story should be brief, use simple vocabulary, and pictures are often helpful. Anyone can write a social story, you don't have to be a trained professional!

Use social stories to prepare students for new activities or events throughout the school day. If you have never used social stories, you may not realize how helpful they can be in big and small situations and how very easy they are to create. Consider these scenarios:

- When introducing a new center or activity to your classroom, use a social story with 4 or 5 steps that gives students the expectations for that center. After you demonstrate the expectations to the class, students who need it could have a reminder card of the steps.
- How about going on a field trip to a play or a museum? Students need to know expected behavior. Use a short, simple social story to remind them of the basics, "we don't talk while the actors are on stage", etc.
- You can even use social stories with students who easily become frustrated and need reminders of how to calm themselves and work through their frustrations.

Check out these apps and try making your own social story today!



Emotions and Feelings
Social Stories



iCreate: Social Skills
Stories



Kid in Story
Book Maker



Conversation
Social Stories