



SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL - SOCIAL STORIES™

Social Stories™

Social Stories™ are a commonly used strategy with children, adolescents, and adults with ASD. They were developed by Speech Therapist, Carol Gray as a way to provide clear, concise and accurate information about what is happening in a specific social situation. They help to provide the information that others may automatically know. Social Stories™ are written in response to an individual's needs and can be used to provide information and answers to questions such as:

- What is happening?
- Who is doing what?
- Why is it happening?
- What are the reasons or 'rules' that govern what people are doing?
- What are the typical socially acceptable responses for the individual in the specific situation?

Social Stories™ can help to explain the changes associated with the transition to high school. It may be beneficial to ask the student what they would like to know about high school and incorporate this information into the story. You may like to include information about the following:

- Names and photographs of teachers and other school staff
- Peers from previous years who are also transitioning to high school or same class
- Break areas
- Locations, opening times and any rules associated with the canteen or other school facilities
- Lockers
- Toilets
- Start and finish times.

Sometimes, teachers may not be known and the student may not have visited the classroom until it is time to commence school. A general Social Story™ about changes will still be beneficial in preparing them for the change. Social Stories™ may also be helpful in explaining the social expectations of the new environment e.g. where certain year groups tend to sit, what people wear.

It is important that Social Stories™ are individualised to the student to ensure they meet a particular need. Consider factors such as age, interests, comprehension and learning style and consult with therapists or the student's School Psychologist when developing Social Stories™.

For more information about Social Stories™ including how to write them, visit Carol Gray's new website, www.carolgraysocialstories.com, opening soon.

