

TRANSCRIPT: Social stories

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Social stories were initially developed for people with autism, to help them understand social situations and how to function better within those situations.

We, certainly, use them in our school for a range of pupils, as a means of trying to make clear what the acceptable behaviour is in a social situation and to encourage them to say what they will try to do to behave appropriately to that situation, to give them more success.

Fiona has had problems in the playground being too close to people and trying to understand that other people may not always want to play with her - they might want to make other choices - and also she will often choose not to listen or follow instructions.

Fiona has a copy of it too and, before playtime, she goes, automatically now, to get it out of her drawer and we sit together and read it. She is quite a good reader but she likes to have it read to her. So, she's both reading it to herself but also having it reaffirmed positively by me, that this is how we're going to have a good playtime, and it has worked very, very well with her.

When she comes back each playtime, she's very keen to share her positive experiences and if things have gone wrong too, she likes to talk it through and to work out why it went wrong and what she might be able to do to change that the next playtime.

Some children end up collecting a range of social stories to help them deal with a range of social situations, which they will then perhaps keep for themselves, and when they need to, go back and check the protocol just to make sure they know what's appropriate.