



Continuity of Learning ~ CISVA Learning Support

Communication #5

May 22, 2020

Steps to Create a Social Story with Visual Supports

<https://www.yourtherapysource.com/blog1/2017/11/18/write-social-story-visual-supports/>

A social story may be helpful to inform children of what they can expect and what is expected of them. A social story can take different platforms. For example: hard copy book or chart, video modeling, or Google slides.

- It is important to determine the priority during this transition
- Too many social stories at one time can be confusing
- Choose your platform

Think about the following 4 steps:

1.) Use different types of sentences: *Use clear, simple language*

Possible Starting Points:

- Descriptive/Factual Sentence (action): I ride a bus to school.
- Directive Sentence (guide the child): I may ask the bus aide for help.
- Perspective Sentence (feeling): Sometimes, I get upset when I ride the bus.
- Cooperative Sentence (strategy): When I get upset, my friends can give me some space.
- Control Sentence (written by the child, strategy): If I get upset, I can listen to my music.
- Affirmative Sentence (feedback): Staying calm on the bus is good.

2.) Add pictures/photos: *Meaningful visuals help make connections*

Possible Starting Points:

- Place above text
- Connect with story
- Use photos, clip art or other visuals

3.) Read the story: *Provides opportunities to teach new expectations*

Possible Starting Points:

- Set times to practice
- Read together as many times as needed
- Use this as an opportunity to discuss what-if concerns of student

4.) After the story: *Practice leads to greater independence*

Possible Starting Points:

- Practice and role play as needed
- Keep social stories accessible to review the expectations

SEL: Tips for Teachers and EAs to Create a Safe, Nurturing and Supportive Environment, as students start to return to the Classroom

*-Adapted from Safe and Civil Schools Webinar: Welcoming the Kids Back!
Reinvigorating the Positive School Climate – Presented by Susan J. Isaacs*

Expect a social and emotional impact on all students, especially those who have experienced greatest instability. These students may need more check-ins.

- Greet students by name and with a smile (as they enter the school, the classroom, etc.)
- Take time to talk about the current situation. Let your students' questions guide you.
- Offer unconditional positive regard

- Assume that behaviour will be challenging and prepare to be calm. Even if children do not follow outlined expectations, avoid overreacting with fear.
- Provide positive praise more than negative attention. Remember that different kids need different levels of attention.
- Check in routinely with every child
- Explicitly teach consistent and simple expectations, and practice routines to support predictability, calm, and well-being



Social Stories

Prepare children about changes at school

<https://www.socialstories4kids.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Returning-To-School-During-COVID-19.pdf>

Personal space with picture cards and minimal language

<https://able2learn.com/products/personal-space-is-good-social-story-pages-11.html>

Personal space when talking

<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/sites/afirm.fpg.unc.edu/files/covid-resources/Support%20Understanding-Giving%20People%20Space%20When%20Talking.pdf>

Personal space

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/FreeDownload/Too-Close-For-Comfort-Black-and-White-Options-Included-4809583>

Hand washing

<https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/patients-and-parents/coronavirus-resources-for-children-and-families/>

Coughing and sneezing

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/FreeDownload/Coughing-and-Sneezing-A-Social-Story-4497520>

Masks and gloves

<https://consciousdiscipline.s3.amazonaws.com/Free-Resources/Printable-Posters-Tools-Activities/FREE-Printable-Masks-and-Gloves-Social-Story.pdf>

Talking Mats

Problem solving concerns

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/Talking%20Mat%20-%20Attending%20School%20Whilst%20Others%20Are%20Self-isolating.pdf>

Social distancing

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/Talking%20Mat%20-%20Social%20distancing%20and%20self-isolating.pdf>

Posters

Giving people space

<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/sites/afirm.fpg.unc.edu/files/covid-resources/Support%20Understanding-Giving%20People%20Space.pdf>

Handwashing steps (clip art)

<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/sites/afirm.fpg.unc.edu/files/covid-resources/Support%20Understanding-Handwashing%20%28Clipart%29.pdf>

Handwashing steps poster with photos (real photos)

<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/sites/afirm.fpg.unc.edu/files/covid-resources/Support%20Understanding-Handwashing%20%28Photos%29.pdf>

SEL

Anxiety Canada

<https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

Contact us:

Currently, the best way to reach our team is **through email**. When emailing us, please be as specific as possible. We are happy to support you through this time.

Nicole: nregush@cisva.bc.ca

Claudia: cgastaldo@cisva.bc.ca

Jodi: jferrara@cisva.bc.ca



We will navigate this next phase of this transition together!

While working hard to support your students, teachers and families, please remember to take care of yourself!

~ Nicole, Claudia and Jodi