**Social Stories**

A social story is written in a simple story format, it helps to improve social skills by teaching pupils with complex behaviour / ASD and or social misunderstanding. It can help with self-awareness, self-calming and self-management skills. They are an easy and effective way to teach pupils to handle problem situations in “appropriate ways”.

The Purpose of a social story is

* To describe social situations and appropriate responses
* correct pupil responses to a social situation in a nonthreatening manner
* personalise instructions for a pupil
* break goals into easy steps
* teach routines for better retention and generalisation
* help the pupil cope with both expected and unexpected changes
* address a wide variety of problem behaviors (i.e., aggression, fear, obsessions)

It uses specific types of sentences to teach social skills, in a specific situation that causes difficulty for students. The style and content vary according to the age of the pupil and the given event.

1. **Descriptive** – tells where situations occur, who is involved, what they are doing, and why.

 ***"At breaktime there are many children playing with the ball."***

**2. Perspective** – describes the reactions and feelings of the pupil and of other people.

 ***"When I take the ball without asking, it makes the other children angry."***

3. **Directive** – tells the pupils what to do.

***"When I want to play with the ball, I will ask the other children first."***

4. **Control** – after the social story is read, the pupil writes sentences to help him/her remember the information from the social story (this is optional).

***The pupil may write, "It can make other children angry if I take the ball without***

***asking."***

The social story must be read as often as needed and may be worked into students daily classroom routines. Social stories can also be used at home.