



Autism and Tertiary Behavior Supports  
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**Social Stories™ 10.3 Criteria  
Implementation Checklist**

| Criteria   | Description   | √ |
|--|---|---|
| 1. One Social Story Philosophy, Definition, and Goal / Social Humility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one philosophy, one definition, and one goal</li> <li>• describes a personally relevant topic (often a context, skill, achievement, or concept)</li> <li>• patient and supportive</li> <li>• descriptive, meaningful, respectful, and physically, socially, and emotionally safe</li> <li>• the intended message remains intact</li> </ul>               |   |
| 2. Two-Step Discovery  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gather relevant information to improve understanding</li> <li>• identify the specific topic(s)</li> <li>• identify the most critical information (focus).</li> </ul>   |   |
| 3. One Title, Two Types of Sentences and Three Parts                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• title meaningfully represents the topic.</li> <li>• descriptive sentences and coaching sentence</li> <li>• introduction that describes the topic</li> <li>• body that adds detail</li> <li>• conclusion that reinforces and summarizes the information</li> </ul>  |   |
| 4. FOURmat Makes it Mine!  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• format to abilities, attention span, learning style and, talents and interests</li> </ul>  |   |
| 5. Five Factors Define Voice & Vocabulary                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• first or third-person statements</li> <li>• connections between past, present and future events</li> <li>• socially humble, positive and patient</li> <li>• literally accurate vocabulary and phrasing</li> <li>• careful selection of words to accurately represent the intended meaning (special attention to verbs)</li> </ul>                        |   |
| 6. Six Questions Guide Story Development                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answers relevant 'WH' questions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the place (WHERE),</li> <li>○ time-related information (WHEN),</li> <li>○ relevant people (WHO),</li> <li>○ important cues (WHAT),</li> <li>○ activities, responses or statements (HOW)</li> <li>○ reasons or rationale behind them (WHY).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   |

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|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 7. Seven Celebrates              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• praise what the audience is doing well</li> </ul>  |  |
| 8. A Gr-Eight Formula!           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• descriptive sentences appear at least three times as often as coaching sentences</li> <li>• maximum of one sentence that coaches per story.</li> <li>• story rating of 3 or more <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Total number of Descriptive Sentences with title being a Descriptive Sentence divided by Total number of Coaching Sentences</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |  |
| 9. Nine to Refine                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• story is reviewed and revised until it meets the ten Social Story Criteria.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 10. Ten Guides to Implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure that social humility and the ten criteria are consistent with its introduction and reviewed over time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ plan for comprehension</li> <li>○ plan Story support</li> <li>○ plan Story review</li> <li>○ plan a positive introduction</li> <li>○ monitor</li> <li>○ organize the stories</li> <li>○ mix &amp; match to build concepts</li> <li>○ story re-runs and sequels to tie past, present and future</li> <li>○ recycle instruction into applause</li> <li>○ stay current on Social Story research and updates</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |

Adapted from Gray, C., Timmins, S., and Faherty, C. 2021. Social Stories 10.3 Criteria.

Criteria available at <https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Social-Stories-10.3-Criteria.pdf>

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