



Along the Spectrum

Tazewell Mason Counties Special Education Association

Welcome to TMCSEA's quarterly autism newsletter. Our purpose is to provide information and resources on specific evidence based practices to support you and your work with students on the autism spectrum. Topics were selected based on feedback from the surveys that were completed. This quarter, our focus is on social narratives and power cards. In December, we will share some great information on visual strategies and supports.

What is a Social Narrative?

Social narratives are visually represented stories that describe social situations and socially appropriate responses or behaviors to help individuals with ASD acquire and use appropriate social skills. Social narratives have now expanded to include power cards, social scripts, comic strips and cartooning, and video social stories.

How do you write a Social Narrative?

There are four basic sentence types: descriptive, perspective, affirmative and directive.

Descriptive sentences

- Truthful statements of fact, answer "wh" questions
- Identify the most important factors in a situation and aspects of the topic
- Example: Many children go to the cafeteria to eat lunch.

Perspective sentences

- Describe another person's internal state, thoughts, feelings, beliefs, motives or physical/emotional health
- Example: Many children like eating the school lunch. (opinion)

Directive sentences

- Identify a suggested response or choices to a situation or concept that directs the student's behavior.
- Instead of beginning sentences with *I will* or *I can*, statements like *I will try to...*, *I will work on...*, or *One thing I may try to say is...*
- Examples: I will try to eat lunch in the cafeteria.

Affirmative sentences

- Enhance the meaning of other statements.
- Stresses an important point, refers to a law or rule, or reassures the student.
- Examples (affirmative sentence is in bold print): I will try eat lunch in the cafeteria. **This is a good idea.** (stressing a point)

How do you implement a Social Narrative?

Introduce the Social Narrative.

- Introduce in a patient, reassuring manner in a relaxed setting
- Keep phrases simple, honest, and straightforward.

Reviewing a Social Narrative.

- Review with a positive & laidback attitude prior to targeted situation
- Focus on the social narrative
- Have several people review the narrative with the student throughout the day

[Social Narrative Checklist](#)



The Power Card Strategy

The Power Card Strategy is a visual aid that incorporates the child's special interest to teach appropriate social interactions, including routines, behavioral expectations and the hidden curriculum. It consists of two parts—a short scenario describing how the hero solves the problem and a small card with a picture of the hero to recap the strategy. Because children with AS often have well-defined special interests, the hero associated with their interest serves as a motivator. The strategy capitalizes on the relationship between child and hero. Following the initial reading of the scenario, the child is given the Power Card to keep with them. This card serves as a way to generalize the skill to new settings (Gagnon, 2001)

The power card is the size of a trading card, bookmark or business card. It contains a small picture of the special interest and the solutions to the problem behavior or situation broken down into three to five steps. The power card is provided to aid in generalization. It can be carried in a purse, wallet or pocket or it can be velcroed inside a book, notebook, or locker. It may be placed on the corner of a student's desk.

Spiderman Needs Help
Even a superhero like Spiderman needs help sometimes. Not even a superhero can do everything alone. At first, Spiderman was scared to ask for help. He didn't want people to think he was weak. He also didn't want people interrupting him when he didn't need help. Then Spiderman had a great idea. He could raise his hand to let people know when he needed help. This would keep them from interrupting, but also get him help when he needed it. When we need help, we can raise our hand just like Spiderman.



Just like Dora!!



Dora wants me to remember these 3 things:

1. Keep my hands down
2. Use my words with a quiet voice
3. Keep working hard.

helpful
RESOURCES

[Social Story Examples](#)

[Interrupting Video Social Story](#)

[Power Card Examples](#)

[TMCSEA Autism Website](#)