

Success Stories for Social Situations

Validated by Victorian Institute of Teaching for PD

Presented by Karen Starkiss



Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are complex, lifelong *developmental disabilities characterised by marked difficulties in social interaction and communication*. Every individual on the autistic spectrum has problems to some degree with social skills, empathy, communication, and the ability to be flexible.

A Success Story is a simple method that may be used to improve a child's understanding of social situations in a non-threatening and reassuring manner and help him/her make a more effective response.

Workshop Content Includes:

- ❖ What is Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD) and what causes it- a brief outline
- ❖ How to gather evidence and informally assess individual pupils in the classroom
- ❖ How ASD affects a student's understanding of social situations



Success Stories:-

- ❖ What they are
- ❖ How they can help students cope with social situations/changes in routines/new experiences/self-care
- ❖ Knowing when to use them
- ❖ Rules for Writing and Using a Success Story
- ❖ Practical Tasks
- ❖ Useful Resources and Websites

Costs: \$400 for 2.5 hours

Includes: presentation and hand-outs.

Success Stories produced at the workshop will be written up and distributed to attendees to provide a resource bank

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Karen Starkiss has over 20 year's primary classroom teaching experience and therefore knows what to recommend and what is practical to adopt in a mainstream classroom. In England, she was Principal of one of the top performing primary schools, despite the fact that she had the highest number of students with Learning Difficulties in the County. She was also employed to work in "failing" schools to improve standards of teaching and learning. She has been part of a team who have provided in-service support to staff about integrating children with learning disabilities into mainstream schools and making their schools inclusive for all children. Karen, and the staff in her schools, have used Success Stories successfully with a number of autistic students to address differing areas of difficulty including the ability to socialise, developing social skills, changes in routine, preparing for new experiences and learning self-care skills.

TESTIMONIES

- It was fantastic! I had never heard of Success Stories before; I wish I had this information years ago. I learned more by writing examples. Loved the presentation- could listen to Karen for hours! RS Melbourne
- The workshop exceeded my expectations. It was very informative and I now have a Success Story for a specific Y9 student. Writing our own story was invaluable- DB Melbourne