

# HI PRO Highlight Resource of the Month



## Using Social Stories to Teach Procedures and Routines in Preschool

Unger, 2024

Summary	<p>As a classroom management strategy to clarify behavior expectations to preschool students, “social stories” are a helpful tool to communicate routines and procedures for the classroom community. Social stories can be short stories in storybook form that specify desired behavior patterns and are inclusive for all students. Research has supported the validity of this approach. Yet, how this content is delivered and from what value systems it derives from is important to consider.</p>
Introduction	<p>Positive language and understanding the consequences of safe versus unsafe behaviors reminds students on <i>why</i> they need to listen to teacher and group expectations. The article lists examples of common classroom expectations, such as personal space “bubbles.” Here are some points to consider when setting up foundational expectations/relationship dynamics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What norms might the child be used to based on their experiences in their home environments?</li><li>● How are behavior goals for students of various abilities and dispositions?</li></ul>
Constructing the Content	<p>The article provides a template for identifying norms across groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Based on their structure, how would you change the wording or make it unique to your classroom environment?</li><li>● How could students participate in co-creating classroom culture?</li></ul>
Reflecting on Inclusivity	<p>Successful communication clearly relays information so that students understand and can do what is asked of them for the community’s benefit. Reflect on the inclusion of diverse students through these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Is the expectation understood by all children?</li><li>● Why might it be difficult for some students to understand certain behavior expectations (e.g., on touch, play, collective versus individualistic, communication and engagement styles, etc.)?</li></ul>



Unger, A. (2024). Using Social Stories to Teach Procedures and Routines in Preschool. Edutopia, Classroom Management.  
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/social-stories-preschool-classes>