



Social Stories

Social stories are a great way of getting information across in a simple and concise way. Visuals help children to remember, and to apply. Try websites such as [Social Stories | SEN Resource Source](#) which has a wide range of social stories for children and young people. Stories include topics as vast as visiting a supermarket or dentist, to parental divorce and turn taking.

Social Skills

Teacher or child can be in the hot seat, as themselves or as a character. This can be particularly engaging for children if the character is someone familiar, e.g. from a fairy tale. Young people to take turns asking/answering questions. This is to build a young person's involvement without them being in control or passive. This encourages friendships that are reciprocal, via a fun and interactive process.

Social skills role play cards by Sue Jennings and Sarah Miles

[Social Skills Activities for Kids: 50 Fun Exercises for Making Friends, Talking and Listening, and Understanding Social Rules](#)

Circle Time

Circle Time out of the box (Nijen Ltd) - these can be used as a whole school scheme of work. Use for ideas/discussion points and opportunities to reflect. They provide a focus on self-esteem, team building, moral values and social skills.

Quality Circle Time in the Primary Classroom by Jenny Mosley encourages self-esteem and positive relationships.

'Pass the compliment' to encourage children to give and receive praise.



Board Games

Jenga, snakes and ladders, twister, connect 4 are not too long but can encourage children to engage constructively with others.

Puppet Activities

Create a puppet show with bought or handmade puppets. A simple idea is to make a sock puppet - children can draw faces/discuss emotions. Use stick on eyes or glue on buttons to create features.

Create role play area using a puppet theatre.

Allow children to play with puppets on a regular basis, to give them an opportunity to explore language and discuss things in a less formal way.

Photo booklets

Create a memory booklet. Children can bring in photos or draw pictures of things they remember from their childhood.

Fine motor activities

Jigsaws, bead threading, milk tops in holes, bracelet making, cutting with scissors, tweezers and pom-poms.

Theraputty Programme - NHS website

Cooking

Allow children to connect previous experiences and participate in something meaningful. Children will be encouraged able to follow instructions (use visuals where necessary), and will engage in something pleasurable. On completion they can be proud of their work (and eat it).

Painting

Create a painting children can be proud of. Children can work together to create a large scale picture. Blow up a picture, and cut it out in to small and equal pieces. Children to choose one piece and then draw it on a larger scale filling a whole piece of A4 or A5 (depending on space). Once all children have completed place pictures on wall like a jigsaw (problem solving) to create one big picture. This encourages individuality, connecting up experiences and co-operation.

Memory Games

Kim's Game - place different objects on a table & cover with a cloth. Ask children to remember the items. Discuss which strategies they used, e.g. created a story, visualisation, rows. Try again with different items.

Pairs - card game

I flew to the moon - Children to remember what has been said previously, e.g. I flew to the moon and with me I took a space suit, I flew to the moon and with me I took a space suit and some biscuits....

Chinese whispers

Jokes

Create amusing animals with textiles and/or art materials.

Create a funny story/pantomime - write scripts and act out.



Primary Nurture Resources

These resources have been gathered by
Argyll & Bute Educational Psychology Service



Emotions activities

Draw your emotions by Margot Sunderland

Create an emotions wall

Use sensory stones such as these to encourage discussion. Nice morning activity.

Create an emotions diary.

Construction equipment

Lego, K'Nex, mobilo, brio, construction straws, construction vehicles, teifoc, drills/tool station, (role play), foam bricks - to encourage engagement with peers.

Newsletter

To encourage engagement with peers allow children to create a newsletter for their classmates/school. Children could interview others, and write scripts. Photographs and pictures could be included.



Imagination

Role play activities which include dressing up and conversing, ideas include: supermarket, doctor, vet, hairdressers, café and butchers.

Write and perform simple plays for classmates - this can also be used as an improvisation exercise.

Create a new invention using different junk/equipment such as construction (see above).

Useful Links

[Better Movers and Thinkers - scaffolding practices | Learning resources | National Improvement Hub \(education.gov.scot\)](#) - Simple, practical and fun activities to improve coordination, thinking, listening and communication skills.

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/resources/>

www.relaxkids.com

[Teaching resources - Tes](#)

[Free primary and secondary school teaching resources - BBC Teach](#)

[BBC One - The Blue Planet](#)

www.risingstars-uk.com Superstars books



[31 Fun Parachute Games and Activities for Kids | Kid Activities](#) - Parachute games for all ages. Used to encourage participation and working with others.

[Blob Shop - Home of the Blob Tree Communication Tools. | blobshop](#) - Blob tree resources, a visual representation of young people's feelings. A safe and quiet area is paramount.

[What Is A Social Story? - Carol Gray - Social Stories \(carolgraysocialstories.com\)](#) - Useful information about what social stories are and how to apply them.

[Nurture Groups | SEN Resource Source](#) - Lots of useful resources to help set up a nurture group.

[Resources | Mindful Kids \(mindful-kids.co.uk\)](#)

[Sensory Play - Action for Healthy Kids](#)

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3Hfu2ZF6pzSsdf9LfhNj3q> - The Nurture Podcast by Katie Dobson & Lynsey Madonia. Free nurture training, also accessible via work devices here: <https://anchor.fm/katielynsey>

[What Happened to You?: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing eBook : Winfrey, Oprah: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#) – Excellent CPD to inform knowledge about the impacts of trauma.

[Numicon, Primary School Maths Resources \(oup.com\)](#)

[Sensory Circuits - Childrens Choice Therapy](#)

[Create a Me Tree- A Self-Reflection Activity - Action for Healthy Kids](#)

[Self Esteem Exercises: Living Tree Self Awareness Activity \(doorway-to-self-esteem.com\)](#)

[How can nurture help you? Six principles of nurture - BBC Bitesize](#) Includes two lovely videos: 'Kindness & Feelings' and 'Dealing with Change'