

Creating Social Stories for Deaf Children

A Practical Workshop for Teachers

Julie Tait

Teacher of the Deaf · Auslan Interpreter · Advisor

Luang Prabang School for the Deaf • Laos

OVERVIEW

Today's Workshop

6 parts · approximately 60 minutes

Part 1 Why Social Stories?

Part 2 What Makes a Good Story?

Part 3 The Simple Formula

Part 4 Topics for Laos

Part 5 Book Creator Demo

Part 6 Teacher Activity

Part 1

Why Social Stories?

10 minutes

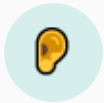


What is difficult for our students?

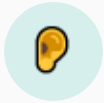
 Think together: What do our Deaf students find hard to understand?

- ✓ Going to the market
- ✓ Visiting the doctor
- ✓ Staying safe near roads
- ✓ Living in the dormitory
- ✓ Making friends
- ✓ Taking turns
- ✓ Asking for help
- ✓ New routines
- ✓ Personal hygiene
- ✓ Puberty
- ✓ Family visits
- ✓ Community events

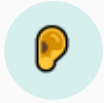
How do hearing children learn?



They overhear conversations.



They hear explanations.



They hear stories.

Many Deaf children do not have this access. Therefore, we must teach these experiences directly.

Social Stories help children...

1 Understand what is happening

2 Understand what people are doing

3 Understand what they can do

4 Learn new vocabulary

5 Learn social expectations

6 Prepare for new experiences

7 Reduce anxiety

Part 2

What Makes a Good Social Story?

10 minutes



PART 2 · RULE 1

Rule 1

Use REAL Experiences

Not cartoons. Not fantasy. Use the child's own life.

Good examples:

- ✓ My Trip to the Market
- ✓ Going to the Doctor
- ✓ Staying Close to My Teacher
- ✓ Washing My Clothes
- ✓ Playing Football with Friends



PART 2 · RULE 2


Rule 2


Use Photos

Photos are powerful for children with limited language.




Real photos are much more meaningful than drawings:


 Your teacher

 Your school

 Your classroom

 The market

 The dormitory

 Your family

 **You can take photos with your phone right now.**

Rule 3

Use Simple Language

✗ Not this:

"When I attend the market I should remain close to my caregiver."

✓ Instead:

"I go to the market.
I stay with Mum.
Mum helps me."

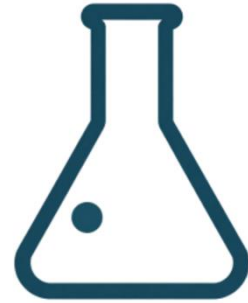
One idea per page. Short sentences. First person (I).

The child should be able to read every word — or have someone sign it.

Part 3

The Simple Social Story Formula

10 minutes



5 Pages. 5 Steps. Every Story.

1

Where?



"I went to the market"

2



"This is my Mum"

3

What Happens?



"The market is busy"

4

What Can I Do?



"I stay with Mum."

5

Positive End

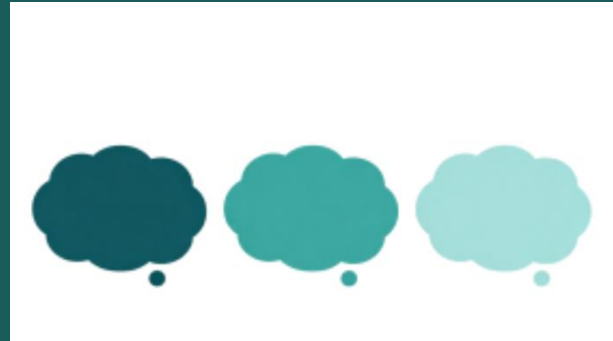


"Mum helps me."

Part 4

Topics for Laos

10 minutes · Brainstorm together



Story Ideas for Your Students

Daily Living

- Brushing Teeth
- Washing Clothes
- Bath Time
- Going to Bed

School

- Coming to Class
- Borrowing a Book
- Asking for Help
- Taking Turns

Community

- Going to the Market
- Going to the Temple
- Visiting Family
- Travelling by Tuk-Tuk

Health

- Going to the Doctor
- Taking Medicine
- Having Ears Checked

Social & Emotional

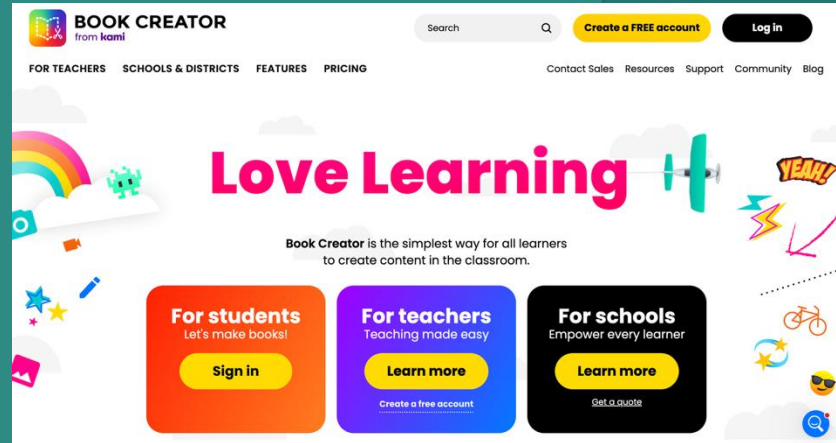
- Making Friends
- Sharing
- Feeling Angry
- Missing My Family

💡 'Having Ears Checked' links directly to the ENT mission — a great first story!

Part 5

Book Creator Demonstration

10 minutes



The screenshot shows the Book Creator website homepage. At the top left is the logo "BOOK CREATOR from kami". To the right is a search bar and two buttons: "Create a FREE account" and "Log in". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "FOR TEACHERS", "SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS", "FEATURES", and "PRICING". On the far right of the navigation menu are links for "Contact Sales", "Resources", "Support", "Community", and "Blog". The main content area features the headline "Love Learning" in large pink letters. Below the headline is the text: "Book Creator is the simplest way for all learners to create content in the classroom." There are three colored boxes: an orange box for "For students" with a "Sign in" button, a blue box for "For teachers" with a "Learn more" button and a "Create a free account" link below it, and a black box for "For schools" with a "Learn more" button and a "Get a guide" link below it. The background is decorated with colorful icons like a rainbow, stars, a pencil, a gear, a lightning bolt, a speech bubble saying "YEAH!", a bicycle, and a magnifying glass.

See the examples first

SOCIAL STORY

ການເດີນທາງຂອງຂ້ອຍໄປຕະຫຼາດ Phousy



My Trip to Phousy Market

My Trip to the Market

A 5-step story following the formula. Real photos. Simple sentences.

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE READER



ຟ້າງ, ຟ້າງ, ຟ້າງ!

Wash, Wash, Wash!

Teacher Washes the Students

A shared event. Photos taken that day. Words added together with the class.

Creating a Book in Book Creator

1 Create a new book

Choose size and layout

2 Add photos

From your camera or gallery

3 Add simple text

One sentence per page

4 Add video signing

Sign the page — record video

5 Publish

Share with students and families

Book Creator is just the tool. The story is the important part.

Part 6

Your Turn!

Teacher Activity · 10 minutes



Story Planning Sheet

Work in pairs. Choose one topic.

Title of the story

My Trip to... / Going to... / When I...

Who is in the story?

The child, their teacher, family member...

Where does it happen?

School, market, dormitory, clinic...

What happens?

3–4 simple events in order

What should the child do?

Wait, ask for help, stay close...

How does it end?

I did a good job. / I am ready. / I feel happy.

 Think about: what photos would you need? Where could you take them?

Every story you make
is a window into the world
for a child who needs it.

Thank you · ຂອບໃຈ · Merci

Questions?