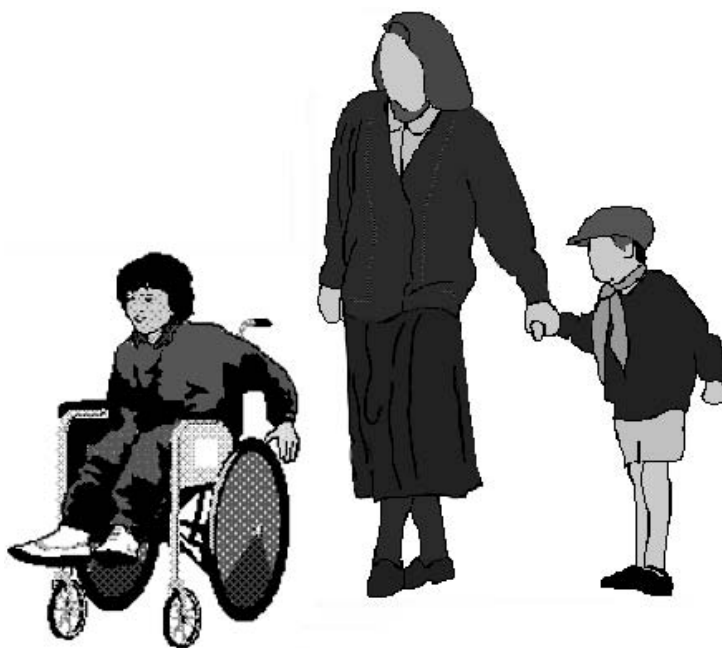


A.17 Early School Transition for Students With Special Needs: A Social Story Book



Early School Transition for Students with Special Needs



A Social Story© Book Used for Transition to Another Classroom or School

Sometimes a student with a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (or any student who has difficulty with transition) has difficulty moving to a new classroom (whether in the same school or a new school). A Social Story© book is a proven strategy in dealing with this issue.

The Social Story© book contains relevant information regarding the new environment. The information can be presented as photographs accompanied by words/sentences (see sample on opposite page) or picture symbols (Picture Communication Symbols from the Boardmaker Programme) accompanied by words/sentences or a video recording. To increase the effectiveness of the Social Story© book, the choice of format must consider the overall needs of the student.

Relevant information may include:

- the name of the school
- the door(s) the student will be using (e.g., to enter the school, for recess, for fire drill, etc.)
- the door to the classroom
- different areas/activities in the classroom that the student may be involved in (e.g., computer, listening centre, the child's desk, etc.)
- the area where students hang their coats, backpacks, etc.
- the bathroom the student will use
- the gymnasium, library, or computer lab
- any classroom into which the student may be integrated
- the hallway, office or playground
- school staff (principal, vice-principal, secretary, custodian, music teacher, etc.)
- classroom staff (teacher, educational assistant)
- objects of interest in the new environment (e.g., water fountains, if the student uses them a lot)
- mode of transportation, if known (e.g., bus, taxi, Mom's car, walking with sibling, etc.)

The pictures are then placed in the booklet format with accompanying sentences, written at the level of understanding for that particular child. The sentences should be written in the first person, e.g., I am going to a new school in September.

The book is read by the child or read to the child, whatever is the most appropriate. The book should be sent home over the summer. The parents are encouraged to review the book periodically with their child.

If the student is going to a new school in September, it is also suggested that the parents introduce their child to the school environment, e.g., drive by the school, walk around the school yard, play on the playground equipment. If possible, it is also a good idea for the parents and their child to visit the classroom that the child will be in next year. See Pages ...

A.17 *(continued)*



**My school is called
Hagersville Elementary
School. This is a picture of
my school.**

**Hagersville Elementary
School is a place where I
learn with other children.
Children learn while they work
and play.**