Carol Gray presents......

OOPS!!

The Most Frequent Social Story™ Errors
First, Let’s Write a Social Story
One Goal

The goal of a Social Story™ / Article is to share accurate information using a format, “voice”, and content that is descriptive, meaningful, and physically, socially and emotionally safe for its audience. Every Social Story™ has an overall patient and supportive quality.
#1
Learning About Directions at School

#2
I Should Follow Directions
Write a Social Story™

#1

There are times when you should listen to adults and follow their directions.

#2

Sometimes teachers, or other school staff, tell students what to do. They give students directions.
Write a Social Story™

#1

Directions help students work, learn, and play together. Directions help to keep students safe, too!

#2

A student may want to do something else. That student may not follow the directions. Instead, that student will do what he or she wants to do. I do that a lot.
There are two parts to a direction. The first is *giving* the direction. Teachers often do that. The second is *following* the direction. That’s the students’ job.

I am going to listen to my teacher. I will follow her directions. I will do what school staff tell me to do, too. It’s my job.
Is this a Social Story?
Attending the Social Story OOPS! Presentation

Today there is a presentation about the most frequent Social Story errors. One person is the speaker. She knows a lot about Social Stories™. She is very entertaining, too. You may want to hear her presentation.

There will be many people at the presentation. During a presentation, people sit quietly and listen to the speaker. That way it is easier for people to hear what is being said.
#1 Most Common Errors

Mistaken Identity: Referring to a script or story as a Social Story when it does not meet the defining criteria.
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Unidentified Opinion: An individual opinion, attitude, bias, etc. is expressed without identification of whose opinion it is....
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#3 Most Common Errors

Second Person Statements: A Social Story never contains a second-person statement.
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#4 Most Common Errors

Potentially inaccurate assumptions: Misrepresenting the context by assuming rather than checking out the details.
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#5 Most Common Errors

StoryMaze: A story is unorganized. For example, information is not presented via a well-constructed introduction, body, and conclusion.
Which is from a Social Story?

#1
My name is Tim. I am a kindergarten student. I am learning to play a game called, Charlie Over the Water.

#2
My name is Tim. I am a kindergarten student. I am learning to play a game called, Charlie Over the Water.
#5 Most Common Errors

StoryMaze: A story is unorganized. For example, information is not presented via a well-constructed introduction, body, and conclusion.
We can’t tell
If it is a Social Story
Just by looking
at it.

During a presentation, people sit quietly and listen to the speaker. That way it is easier for people to hear what is being said.
#6 Most Common Errors

Research and Topic Identification: Not enough information is gathered prior to writing, and thus, the topic is a guess instead of educated guess or discovery.
Which meets Goal?

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5.
Most Common Errors

#7 Forgetting the Importance of Illustration: All applicable Social Story criteria apply to illustrations. Are the illustrations meaningful and safe for the Audience?
MY “I AM SORRY” STORY

My name is Pete. I am six years old. Yesterday I hit Charlie. My mom told me to tell Charlie that I am sorry and I said, “NO!” It’s important to say that “I’m sorry”. I will try to remember to say “I’m sorry”.
Most Common Errors

#8 Story by Scrooge: Story has a negative tone, often due to a mistake in sharing negative information positively with emotional safety in mind.
Sometimes children play together. Sometimes they may feel sad or angry. Knowing what to do is important.

Sometimes taking a short break helps children feel better. Other times, children talk with an adult. These are smart ideas.

I am learning what to do when I feel angry. My mom, dad, or teacher are on my team. They can help me learn what to do when I feel sad or angry.
When Will it End? Story includes sentences without end that have too many commas, "too much information in each, and unfortunately this causes confusion, or muddles meaning... like this sentence is doing right now..."
#10 Most Common Errors

Regarding Social Stories as a ‘stand alone’ strategy
A. As a parent, you are consulted as part of its development, and prior to implementation (Criteria 2 & 10)
B. Chances are that it wasn’t developed quickly (Criteria 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
C. It’s safe for the audience: physically, socially, and emotionally. (Criteria 1 & 5)
D. It is free of all second-person statements, often free of the word ‘you’ (Criterion 5)
E. It has clear organization, including an identifiable beginning, middle, and end. (Criterion 3)
F. It is respectful of the audience (All aspects of all criteria.)
A little homework for you...