

Story Scripts

WHAT & WHY

Story scripts are one type of conversation scripts described by Musselwhite & Burkhart (2004). These scripts can support many of the social agendas of communication described by Janice Light (1988), such as social closeness (developing a sense of belonging, showing off aspects of personality) and information transfer (sharing information through a story).

WHO & WHEN


Story scripts will typically be used by individuals who are beginning to understand the parts of a conversation, and have ideas and stories to exchange. Often, students who are struggling with learning the vocabulary or access of a high tech communication device can tell simple stories using simpler step-listing communication devices, such as:

- Step by Step (www.ablenetinc.com)
- Sequencer (www.adaptivation.com)
- Hip Step Talker (www.enablingdevices.com)

WHERE

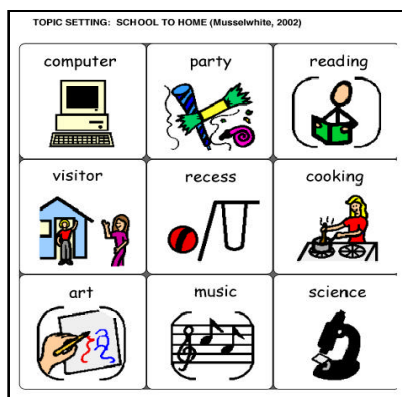
The CD, *Sequenced Social Scripts* by Musselwhite & Burkhart (2004) provides 18 sample story scripts, such as:

- The Bug That Ate New Jersey (HUGE bug found at camp)
- New Shoes (showing doctor new light up shoes)
- Special Olympics (winning a gold medal)
- Watching Dora (learning a new word on TV)
- Why We're Outside (smelly diaper in class)

Script Builder		new shoes
SCRIPT: New Shoes		
Student's Name: _____ Date: _____		
Persons building script: ___ student ___ parent ___ teacher ___ peer ___ therapist ___ other (specify) _____		
Type of Script: ___ activity / ___ class participation / X. conversation		
Does This Script: ___ start with a greeting, "excuse me" or other hook to get the partner's attention? ___ include a range of communicative functions (positive comments, teasing, questioning, directing, etc.)? ___ provide for multiple turns (e.g. keeps maintainers such as "tell me more" or "wait a bear the rest")? ___ ensure that the user doesn't get "backed into a corner" (unexpected response stops exchange)? ___ use "real-kind language" appropriate for the student's age and setting? ___ use "person-matched language" appropriate to the personality of the individual?		
Communicative Function	Sample Messages	
Attention Getter(s)	I have something to say!	
Starter(s)	I have got something new! Can you guess?	
Maintainers/ Turn Transfers	I'll give you a hint: they flash red and green. Give up?! They are my new shoes!	
Closer(s)	That's all!	

New Shoes Story Script

HOW TO FIND SYMBOLS



Finding symbols for story scripts can be time-consuming! Here are a few ideas:

- a) Use 'generic symbols' from the Chat CD by Musselwhite & Burkhart (2004)
- b) Use remnants: for a story about McDonald's, put a napkin in the topic notebook
- c) Use digital photos

CAUTION! Story scripts are very personalized. The sample scripts shown are just that - samples. You will need to work with students to co-construct stories that are meaningful to them. Remember, even little events can be fun to talk about!

STORY SCRIPT SAMPLES

How I Spent My Summer Vacation CTG 03

Yo.
You won't believe what I got to do this summer.
It was so cool.
I will give you a hint.
It was awesome.
It was scary. <pause>
Can you guess?
You want another hint?
I got really wet.
I went rafting!
Have you done that before?
I've got some pictures.
Want to see them tomorrow?
Okay, bye.

What Happened Last Night North River Collaborative, MA, 2005

Hey!
How are you?
I have something to share with you.
Can you guess?
That's not it . . . Take one more guess.
Something very funny happened last night before dinner.
Do you want a hint?
Are you sitting down?
My Dad sat down, and it sounded like this: <BLAAAAAAT>
I put a whoopee cushion on his seat.
So, be careful where you sit today!
That's it.

At the Gym North River Collaborative, MA, 2005

Hey.
Guess what!
We had gym today . . .
The funniest thing happened.
I'm not telling.
Picture this . . . you know Sean?
He was walking on the treadmill . . .
And Family Feud was on the TV . . .
And he got so excited when the team won . . .
SPLAT! He fell off!
He was fine, but we couldn't stop laughing.
That's all.

Story About a Prank
Austin, TX

Hey!

How are you?

I have something to tell you.

Can you guess.

That's not it! Take one more guess.

No, something very funny happened last night before dinner.

Do you want a hint?

Are you sitting down?

My Dad sat down too.

And it sounded like this . . .

Blaaaaaat (whoopee cushion!)

Yep, I hid a whoopee cushion on his chair.

So, be careful where you sit today!!

That's all.