

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Social Story school holidays

Social stories can help to support children and young people to understand changes or upcoming events. They are most effective when personalised to your child.

Social stories use pictures or photos so it is easier for your child to follow. Social stories use positive language.

A social story can help by

- **Describing:** what is happening
- **Commenting:** on what people may **feel**

This social story aims to help children and young people who find school holidays and change of routine difficult to understand.

How to introduce the holiday social story

- Introduce the social story when you and your child are somewhere quiet and relaxed. Read and look at the story together.
- Check how your child responds to the story – if they don't like something in it, they can change it with you.
- Your child may need to look at the story lots of times to understand and follow it.
- Reinforce key messages. For example. 'it's school holidays now. We can do something fun, let's go to the park'.
- If your child finds sitting difficult – don't force them to sit and read with you. Try looking at the story another time, or leave the story out for them to look at.

Remember:

- Check how well the story is working - you might need to change parts for your child
- Keep going back to the story to help your child understand it
- Use alongside other supports for your child – e.g. you can use a calendar to help your child understand when school is starting again or some photos of activities your are going to do each day in the holidays.

School Holidays



I go to school during the week



At the weekend there is no school



When it is the school holidays -
school is closed. I do not go to school.



In the school holidays I stay at home
with my family.



I might go to ____ My family will let
me know if I am going to stay
somewhere else



It is the school holidays now.



School will open again in days



My family will help me to choose fun
things to do at home



My teachers will be happy to see me
when the school holiday is finished.