

## Supplementary Materials 5: Qualitative Topic Guides

### ASSSIST-2 Parent/Carer Interview Topic Guide

	Topic Guide for Interviews with Parents/Carers
Introduction questions	Interviewer to introduce the meeting (date, time) and record the participant number
Study participation	<p>Why did you want to be involved in the Social Stories (ASSSIST-2) study?</p> <p>Did you enjoy being part of the Social Stories (ASSSIST-2) study? Why?</p> <p>Were Social Stories what you expected?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that were helpful or positive?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that you found difficult?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that could be improved to make it better for you and/or for the children?</p>
Goal Setting	<p>Were you involved in the goal setting process?</p> <p>If no - Why not?</p> <p>If yes -</p> <p>How easy or difficult did you find the goal setting process?</p> <p>Did you feel the goal(s) set were appropriate for the child(ren) your child(ren)?</p> <p>Is there anyone else you feel should have been involved in the goal setting process?</p> <p>Is there anything you would like to add about the goal setting process?</p>
Training	<p>“Having now taken part in the Social Stories (ASSSIST-2) study and attended the training on writing and developing Social Stories™:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How did you find being involved in writing the Social Story/ies?</li> <li>● Is there anything about the training you found particularly helpful/useful?</li> <li>● Is there anything that was unhelpful/not useful to you?</li> <li>● Is there anything you would change about the training?</li> <li>● Following the training do you feel confident writing Social Stories?</li> </ul>
Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who do you feel is the best placed person to write and deliver Social Stories in schools?</li> <li>● What role or involvement do you think parents/carers should have in working out the topic or the content of a Social Story that will be delivered in school?</li> <li>● Have you seen any benefits of Social Stories being used with your child/the child at school in your care? If yes – what kind?</li> <li>● Have you noticed any issues with Social Stories being used with your child/the child in your care at school? If yes - what king?</li> <li>● How can the school support Social Stories being used at home?</li> </ul>

<p>Social Stories</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Are you using Social Stories at home?</p> <p><b><i>If no</i></b> – Why not?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you found any problems or barriers to using them?</li> <li>- Would anything encourage/help you to use them?</li> </ul> <p><b><i>If yes</i></b> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do you mind telling us what you have used Social Stories for?</li> <li>- Have you used the same story that was written as part of the study or have you written additional stories?</li> <li>- Who is writing them?</li> <li>- Who is reading them?</li> <li>- How often?</li> <li>- Are there any behaviours you have decided not to use them for or behaviours that you feel Social Stories could not address?</li>   <li>- Have you found any problems or barriers to using them?</li> <li>- Have you seen any benefits to using Social Stories at home? If yes – what kind?</li> </ul>
<p>Other</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Do you have anything else to add about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking part in the Social Stories (ASSIST-2) study that we haven't covered?</li> <li>- Social Stories in general that we haven't covered?</li> </ul>

## ASSIST-2 Teachers/Associate teachers Interview Topic Guide

	Topic Guide for Interviews with Teachers/ Associated Teachers
Introduction questions	Interviewer to introduce the meeting (date, time) and record the participant number
Study participation	<p>Did you enjoy being part of the ASSIST-2 study? Why?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that you found difficult?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that were helpful or positive?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that could be improved to make it better for you and/or for the children/parents?</p>
Goal Setting	<p>How easy or difficult did you find the goal setting process?</p> <p>Did you feel the goal(s) set were appropriate for the child(ren) you were working with?</p> <p>Is there anyone else you feel should have been involved in the goal setting process?</p> <p>How confident do you feel in setting SMART goals for children in the future?</p> <p>Is there anything you would like to add about the goal setting process?</p>
Training	<p>Did you attend the Social Stories training?</p> <p><b>If yes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-How did you find being involved in writing Social Stories?</li> <li>-Is there anything about the training you found particularly helpful/useful?</li> <li>-Is there anything that was unhelpful/not useful to you?</li> <li>-Is there anything you would change about the training?</li> <li>-Following the training, do you feel confident writing social stories?</li> </ul> <p><b>If no:</b></p> <p>If an opportunity arose, would you be willing to attend a training session on writing and delivering social stories?</p>
Intervention	<p>Who do you feel is the best placed person to write Social Stories in schools?</p> <p>Who is best placed to deliver/read them? Why?</p> <p>What do you think is the best location to deliver Social Stories within a school?</p> <p>Which behaviours do you think may be suited to use in Social Stories within school. Why?</p> <p>Which behaviours are least suited? Why?</p> <p>What factors might get in the way of you using this intervention in the future?</p>
Social Stories	<p>Is your school still using social stories?</p> <p><b>If no – Why not?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have you found any problems or barriers to using them?</li> <li>● Have you seen any benefits to using Social Stories? If yes – what kind?</li> <li>● Would anything encourage/help your school to continue using them?</li> </ul> <p><b>If yes –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who is writing them?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Who is delivering them?</li><li>● How often?</li><li>● Have you found any problems or barriers to using them?</li><li>● Have you seen any benefits to using Social Stories? If yes – what kind?</li></ul> <p>Can you see any issues regarding Social Stories being used in the school in the future? Please tell us more.</p>
Other	<p>Do you have anything else to add about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Taking part in the ASSSIST-2 study that we haven't covered?</li><li>- Social stories in general that we haven't covered?</li></ul>

## ASSIST-2 Interventionist Interview Topic Guide

	Topic Guide for Interviews with Interventionists
Introduction questions	Interviewer to introduce the meeting (date, time) and record the participant number
Study participation	<p>Did you enjoy being part of the ASSIST-2 study? Why?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that were helpful or positive?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that you found difficult?</p> <p>Are there any aspects of the study that could be improved to make it better for you and/or for the children/teachers/parents?</p>
Goal Setting	<p>Were you involved with the goal decision making process?</p> <p><b>If yes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How easy or difficult did you find the goal setting process?</li> <li>• Did you feel the goal(s) set were appropriate for the child(ren) you were working with?</li> <li>• Is there anyone else you feel should have been involved in the goal setting process?</li> <li>• How confident do you feel in setting SMART goals for children in the future?</li> <li>• Is there anything you would like to add about the goal setting process?</li> </ul> <p><b>If no:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did you feel the goal(s) set were appropriate for the child(ren) you were working with?</li> <li>• Do you feel that you understand the goal setting process?</li> <li>• Would you have liked to have been involved in this process?</li> </ul>
Training	<p>Thinking about the training session you attended on Social Stories for the ASSIST-2 study, what did you find useful?</p> <p>How well did the training you received prepare you to deliver the intervention?</p> <p>Were there any gaps in the training you received?</p> <p>Was there anything about the training you would change?</p> <p>Had you delivered Social Stories before taking part in this study?</p> <p><b>If yes</b> – Were these different from the Social Stories you are now using (if so please describe)?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Had you received training to do so?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Do you think you have delivered the Social Stories as part of the ASSIST-2 study differently to the way you have previously?</p>
Manual and training resources	<p>Did you use the training manual and resources following the training session?</p> <p>How did you use the manual and resources?</p> <p>Was there anything about the manual or training resources that you would change? (e.g. content, layout, format)</p>

Intervention	<p>Who is the best person to write Social Stories in schools? Why?</p> <p>Who is best placed to read them? Why?</p> <p>What do you think is the best location to deliver social stories within a school?</p> <p>Which behaviours do you think may be suited to use in Social Stories within school. Why?</p> <p>Which behaviours are least suited? Why?</p> <p>How can parents support Social Stories that are being used in school?</p> <p>What is the impact of parents/carers being involved in the writing or delivery of Social Stories in schools?</p>
Social Stories	<p>Are you still using Social Stories in school?</p> <p><b>If no</b> – Why not?</p> <p>Have you found any problems or barriers to using them?</p> <p>Would anything encourage/help you to continue using them?</p> <p>Is anyone else still using them at your place of work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If no, why not?</li> <li>- If yes, who?</li> </ul> <p><b>If yes</b> –</p> <p>How often?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do you do anything differently to what you learnt in the training you attended?</li> <li>- Have you found any problems or barriers to using them?</li> <li>- Do you feel you have had enough support from your school to use/continue using Social Stories?</li> <li>- Have you taught Social Stories to anyone else? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If no – Why not?</li> <li>- If yes – how did you find that?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Approximately, how many Social Stories have you written?</p> <p>Have you seen any benefits to using Social Stories? If yes – please describe?</p> <p>Have you noticed any issues or disadvantages to using Social Stories?</p> <p>Can you see any issues regarding Social Stories being used in the school in the future? Please explain.</p> <p>What factors might help or hinder the use of Social Stories in your school?</p>
Other	<p>Do you have anything else to add about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking part in the ASSSIST-2 study that we haven't covered?</li> <li>- Social stories in general that we haven't covered?</li> </ul>

## ASSIST-2 Research Assistant (RA) Focus Group Topic Guide

Introduction	Independent facilitator to introduce the focus group (date, time, purpose) and record the codes of participants
Training	What was your understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) before you started goal setting?  What was your experience of being trained to set goals for Social Stories with associated teachers and parents?  Is there anything else you would have liked to have training on/ information about in relation to goal setting?
Sheet	How useful did you find the goal setting form?  Would you add anything to the form?  Would you remove anything from the form?
Experience of Goal Setting	How did you find the experience of goal setting?  What was positive about the experience of goal setting?  Were there any challenges?  Is there anything that could make the goal setting process easier?  Would you change anything about the goal setting process?
Types of Goals	What types of goals do you think are appropriate for a Social Story?  Do you find some goals easier to set than others?
Best People to Involve	Who do you think is best suited to set the goal?  Do you think anyone else should be involved in goal setting? (e.g. parents, teachers, TAs-if not included above)  Should the child be involved in goal setting?  What would be the benefits of this?  What would be the challenges of this?
Other	Do you have anything else you would like to add?

## ASSIST-2 FOCUS GROUP TOPIC GUIDE-TRAINERS

	ASSIST-2 Topic Guide for Focus Group with Trainers
Introduction questions	Independent facilitator to introduce the focus group (date, time, purpose) and record the codes of participants
Training you received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What training did you receive?</li> <li>● How well did the training you received prepare you to train the school staff?</li> <li>● How would you rate your understanding of Social Stories after the training you received?</li> <li>● Do you think the training you received would be sufficient for local authority or other training providers?</li> <li>● Is there anything you feel could be added to the training you receive?</li> <li>● How confident did you feel to deliver the training once you were trained?</li> </ul>
Goal setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who do you feel is best placed to set goals for the children?</li> <li>● Were the goals that were set for the participating children appropriate to write a Social Story around?</li> <li>● Were there any issues with the goals set?</li> <li>● Did you have to make any changes or clarifications to the goal as part of the training session?</li> </ul>
Training you delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How confident were you in delivering the training to school staff and parents?</li> <li>● Were there any particular areas you were less confident about?</li> <li>● Did anything unexpected come up when you were delivering the training?</li> <li>● Did you have to make any adjustment to the training?</li> <li>● How much support did the interventionists and staff need to write the Social Stories?</li> <li>● How often did you manage to complete all stories within the training session?</li> <li>● How many stories do you feel it is feasible to write within one 3 hour session with one trainer?</li> <li>● Do you feel that training individual schools is the best approach or do you feel it would be feasible to train multiple schools at once?</li> </ul>
Post training support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How much contact did you have with interventionists and staff following the training session?</li> <li>● How responsive were the interventionist and staff to your feedback?</li> </ul>
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who do you feel is the best placed person to write Social Stories in schools?</li> <li>● Are you aware of any barriers to the delivery of Social Stories in schools?</li> <li>● How does involvement of parents in the writing of Social Stories impact upon them?</li> </ul>
Other	<p>Do you have anything else to add about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working on the ASSIST-2 study that we haven't covered?</li> <li>- Social stories in general that we haven't covered?</li> </ul>