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)

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!

© 2004 www.aacintervention.com
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:  <BLAAAAAAAT>
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 (whoopie cushion!)
Yep, I hid a whoopie cushion on his chair.
So, be careful where you sit today!!
That's all.