Welcome to the focus group for Teachers and Clinicians.

You have been invited here today to join with others in discussing the use of social stories for children with autism specifically within school environments. The qualitative work today is part of a bigger study examining the use of a manual for writing social stories which will be used by teachers in mainstream schools.

Part of the research involves developing ideas for inclusion in the manual, writing the manual and then seeing how well it works in particular locations with particular children in school settings.

To be able to achieve our goals we want to do a number of things, and this is where you come in. We value your opinions, your insight and knowledge. As such there is no wrong answer there is your point of view, and above all we want to know what works. We would ask you not to tell us what you think we want to hear, but speak from the heart. Please speak freely and allow others to speak freely too.

We treat these focus groups and the data collected as confidential, and we would ask you to consider the same level of confidence. We would like to record these focus groups, mainly through notes and also through digital recordings. These are held securely and are only listened to by myself and the transcriptionist. Once all the relevant data has been collected from the recordings they will be destroyed.

You have all received information about the study and a consent form. Can I just check at this time that you have all read and understood the information sheet and signed the consent form.

Welcome **Tell us your name and where you work**	*3 mins*
1. **Checking definitions and using Carol Gray's rules** *Last time we asked you what is a social story. This time we are continuing with this but we want to ask you more specifically about Carol Grays methods.* *One of the things that came out of the earlier focus groups was that the rules associated with social stories are quite complex and possibly need simplification.*	*18 mins*

We will also look at which rules are important and which need redeveloping or changed.	
Exercise 1 Use all the time/ use some of the time/ never use. • Why do you stick to these criterion? • Why is it important? • What rules would you add/ develop/ delete/ rephrase In your opinion are there rules that are important in Carol Gray's SS?	**8**
Exercise 2 *Place stickers on the sheets to signify the most important rules.*	**3**
What can we do to make the rules easier?	**3**
	4
2. **Exercise 3: Match up** *Can you match the following question types to the definitions and examples?*	***15 mins***
What titles can we give sentences? Is there a way we can rephrase the sentences which aids memory? Let's brainstorm the different types of sentences e.g. Developing meaningful questions etc	**8** **7**
3. **Rules exercise 4: Which Rules: Simplify them!** *Currently there are ten rules with a number of subdivisions within them. We have had a go at simplifying the process and also the rules. We have also come up with 10 and we would like your opinion.* *We need you to pick apart the rules we have created first?*	***36 mins***
Would use *Possibly use*	**20**

Wont use	
Are there any rules you think are not needed and we can delete Is there anything that needs to be added?	**5**
Would it be useful to sure how the rules are applied in writing social stories? Through examples, case studies etc	**5**
We have produced a process to follow? Do you like the format? Would a list be better? Would you find a quick reference like this be useful?	**3**
Show one-page information sheet Would a summary of the information be useful?	**3**
Break	*8 mins*
4. Manual activities	*17 mins*
Format for the manual: *I have four different types of format for the manual and would like your feedback.*	**(7)**
The first manual is a standard book like text. *The second is a sheet of laminated paper, which will have the basic rules on it?* *The third is this one here* *and the final is a keyring.*	
Which ones do you like and why? *Which ones do you dislike and why?* *Would you want to use more than one?*	**5**
For example would a manual and a crib sheet be useful?	**2**

Size *here are a range of sizes* *what size do you like and why* *what size do you not like I*	**5**
Content of manual Would workbook style activities complement the manual? Would you want these within the manual or separate?	**5**
5. Training	*10 mins*
What do you envisage are the difficulties in training others in Social Stories? Should trainers be approved?	**5** **2**
Can you see any benefits to online training? Can you envisage ways in which online training would not work?	**3**