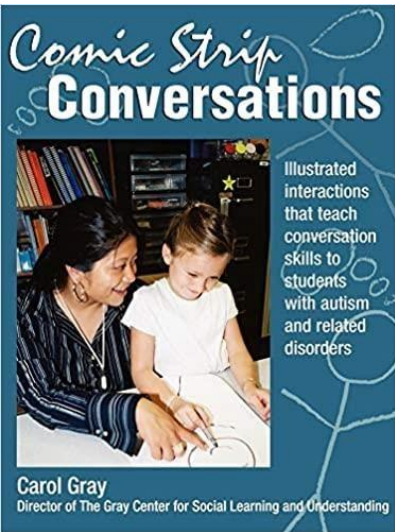


Helping with understanding and social interaction

**User Guide:**  
**Comic Strip Conversations**

<p><b>The intervention</b></p>	<p>Comic Strip Conversation</p> 
<p><b>Where to find it.</b></p> <p><b>How much does it cost?</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Comic Strip Conversations: Illustrated interactions that teach conversation skills to students with autism and related disorders: Amazon.co.uk: Carol Gray: 0800706001130: Books</a></p> <p>£6.99</p>
<p><b>What does it target?</b></p>	<p>Comic strip conversations is a tool used to help people that struggle to understand the social rules of a situation, for example, a birthday party. It can also help people to reflect on a situation that hasn't gone as planned or help them prepare before entering new social settings/activities.</p>
<p><b>Who is it for?</b></p>	<p>It can be used for anyone that has social communication difficulties and needs support in managing an interaction or situation with other people. This may include people who have Autism.</p> <p>To access the resource, the child needs to be able to verbalise their thoughts and have a conversational level of language.</p>
<p><b>What is it?</b></p>	<p>Comic strip conversations is an intervention that aims to break down social situations that may have been confusing or upsetting for a child or young person. Using a comic strip with a young person can help them to understand more about the way they, and others communicate and why a misunderstanding occurred.</p>

<b>How does it work?</b>	A familiar adult should sit with the child or young person and guide the conversation about the situation. The child should lead the conversation and the drawing. You will need a range of colouring pens as colour is used to show emotions. For example, one person in the situation may be red to indicate anger whilst another person is green to show happy. Speech bubbles can be added to show what was said by the various people. Thought bubbles can be added to show what the child and others were thinking and identify any miscommunications.
<b>Who can deliver it?</b>	It can be delivered by anyone that has access to the book and is willing to give it a go.
<b>How long does it take?</b>	There is no timeframe for the intervention as it is a tool that can be used flexibly as and when situations arise. Initially the child will need support to understand the approach but as they become more familiar they may become more independent.
<b>What resources do I need?</b>	You need a large piece of paper (A3 tends to work best) a range of colouring pens for the different emotions and a quiet place to focus on the work. You will need a colour chart to show the colour linked to different emotions so that you and the child can reference them throughout the intervention. However, the child might like to pick the colours rather than using a pre-determined reference chart.
<b>How do I show progress?</b>	Hopefully, you will see the child consider other people's point of view and begin to reflect on situations. Following this, the child may be able to provide their own ways of dealing with the situation in the future.
<b>What next?</b>	When you have completed the comic strip conversation, keep it in a folder so that if a similar situation occurs then it can be reflected upon.
<b>Top Tips</b>	Only use Comic Strip Conversations when the child is calm but try to do it as close to the time it occurred as possible. It can help to carry it out in the location where the event occurred. This helps in recalling information much better than also having to remember the environment.  Comic Strip Conversations can be done in a small group if working on understanding the same social situation.
<b>Additional resources</b>	This is a video with a visual example: <a href="#">Comic Strip Conversations - YouTube</a>  <a href="#">Social stories and comic strip conversations (autism.org.uk)</a>  <a href="#">Social Stories - Carol Gray - Social Stories (carolgraysocialstories.com)</a>
<b>Evidence base</b>	<a href="#">Origins of the Social Story Philosophy - Carol Gray - Social Stories (carolgraysocialstories.com)</a>