

Scripted stories are a great tool to support your child. Scripted stories can help your child understand what to expect during new situations or everyday routines and provide examples of what to do. You can make a scripted story at home and start using it with your child today.

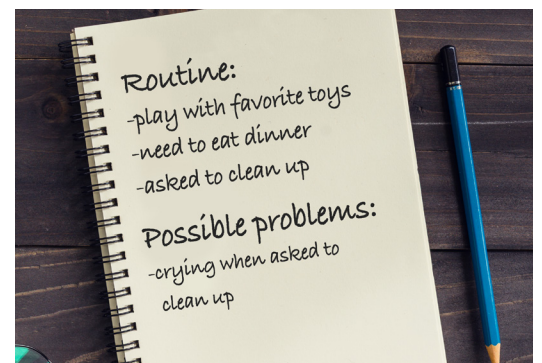
Creating a Story

Step 1. Think of a situation or routine with your child

- ▶ Write out what you want your child to do.
- ▶ Jot down how you want it to go.
- ▶ List some ways that it might not go so well.

For example: *Clean up routine: play with favorite toys, need to eat dinner, clean up when asked.*

Possible problems: *Crying when asked to clean up.*



Step 2. Add details to make complete sentences

- ▶ Write from your child's point of view using short and simple sentences.
- ▶ Focus on what you would like your child to do instead of the challenging behavior.
- ▶ Write about your child managing frustrations or challenges successfully.
- ▶ Put major steps or each major idea on a separate page.

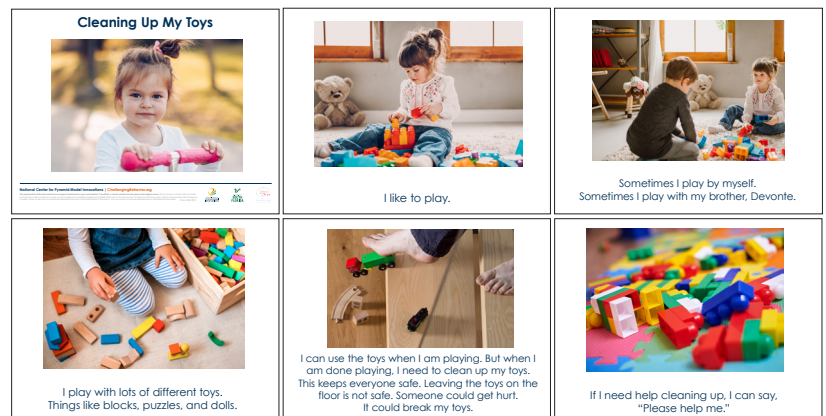
For example: *Sometimes cleaning up is hard because I want to keep playing. I can ask for five more minutes, and my Mom or Dad will reset the timer.*

- ▶ End the story by noting the positive outcomes that result when the activity is completed.

For example: *I am a big helper when I clean up my toys! My Mom and Dad are proud of me when I am a big helper and clean up.*

Step 3. Add pictures on each page

- ▶ Always try to use real photographs of your child, their friends, and family.
- ▶ If needed, you can use images or photos you find on the web or in a magazine.
- ▶ Print or assemble the story to use with your child.



Using a Scripted Story at Home

Congratulations on putting together a scripted story to help your child understand what to expect during everyday routines and new situations! Now you can put your scripted story to use.

Read the story with your child

- ▶ Talk about the important parts of the story.
- ▶ Encourage your child to ask questions.
- ▶ Read the story multiple times a day.

Ask questions about important parts

For example: *“What do you do when the timer goes off?”*

- ▶ If your child knows the answer, let them know how great that is:
“Yes, that’s right. When the timer goes off, you need to start cleaning up. You remembered that from the story.”
- ▶ If your child doesn’t know or gives an incorrect answer, go back to the story:
“Let’s look at that page again, here it says, When the timer goes off and my Mom or Dad says, ‘It’s time to clean up,’ I start to put away my toys. So, what will you do when the timer goes off?”



Celebrate your child’s effort and success

- ▶ Provide positive descriptive feedback when your child uses the skills from the story.
For example: *“You started picking up your toys when the timer went off. I am so proud of you. You are such a big helper.”*
- ▶ Encourage your child to use the skills when needed.
For example: *“We can play with the water toys, but be ready for the timer in a little bit, because we need to go shopping soon.”*