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**Social Communication Intervention Script for story book, *Olive and the Embarrassing Gift***

***Olive and the Embarrassing Gift* by Tor Freeman, Templar Books, 2014**

**Sharing a Story to Facilitate Social and Emotional Learning**

Many children with disabilities such as developmental language disorders, language-learning disorders, social communication disorders, or autism spectrum disorders have difficulty with aspects of social and emotional learning. These children often need explicit, repeated instruction designed to facilitate emotion understanding, conversational ability, and language comprehension and production skill. The following informal script is designed to help interventionists (caregivers and professionals) focus on and emphasize important concepts.

The following storybook has been selected because it has a well-defined story structure, clear language, rich emotion content, and engaging illustrations. A script is provided to guide interventionists as they share this book. Initially, concepts are listed that this book is particularly well suited to teach. These include social and emotional knowledge, interactional skills, vocabulary, and language structure.

Following the list of concepts, a series of prompts is provided for each story page. These prompts include questions, comments, and brief activities (e.g., making a facial expression in a mirror) designed to teach specific concepts. The interventionist may read the story text for each page and then present any of the prompts they feel would be most appropriate. The script is designed to be flexible and adjusted to each child's needs.

At the conclusion of the story script, a series of questions is provided to probe how well children understand and identify emotions that story characters experience. If desired, these questions can be used to evaluate how well children grasp the emotion content of the story.

Following story sharing, the interventionist may guide children to enact the story using simple props. This activity facilitates story comprehension by assisting children to understand the internal states and motivations of characters. Older children may prefer a readers' theater format or choose to provide additional text or dialog to the storybook by using attachable note paper.

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**Concepts to stress**

- 1. Emotions experienced: (happy, excited, surprised, embarrassed, disappointed, sad, mad, frustrated)**
- 2. Anticipating an event and the emotions it elicits**
- 3. Concept of embarrassment**
- 4. Understanding that sometimes one has to hide one's feelings so that one does not make others feel bad (especially when receiving gifts)**
- 5. Prosocial behavior: Friends try to make each other happy. Friends try not to hurt each other's feelings**
- 6. Structural: complete simple sentence forms, complex sentences with causal connections (but, if, so, because)**

**Intro: Title Pages #1—3 Look, this is Joe and this is Olive. This is another book about Olive and her friends. Joe and Olive are best friends. One day, Joe gave Olive a gift (present). Joe was really excited about the present because he thought Olive would like it. Let's find out if Olive liked the gift. Let's think about how Olive and Joe feel in this book.**

**Look at these pictures (Show pictures of faces showing happy, sad, surprised, disappointed, mad, frustrated) (as available). Olive and her friends are going to have some of these feelings in the story. Let's see what happens.**

**Page 4 (cover p. 5)**

**Read: "Joe gave Olive a gift."**

Wow, look at Olive's face.

How does she feel?

Why do you think she might feel that way? (e.g., She is excited and happy because Joe gave her a present.)

How does Joe feel? (Joe is excited and happy because he has a gift for Olive. He thinks that Olive will like it.)

What do you think might be in this box?

## Page 5

**Read: “They are matching hats...”**

What was in the box? (two hats—one for Joe and one for Olive)

It says “best friends” on the hats.

Why do you think Joe chose this hat for Olive? (Joe wanted to show that he and Olive are best friends.)

Look at Joe’s face. How does he feel? (Joe feels happy and excited because he thinks Olive will like the hat.)

Wow, look at Olive’s face. How does she feel?

Do you think that Olive likes the hat? (probably not)

How will Joe feel if Olive does not like the hat? (Joe will feel sad/disappointed if Olive does not like the hat.)

## Page 6

**Read: “Olive and Joe saw Ziggy...”** (cover p. 7)

Look at Ziggy’s face—how does he feel? (He is laughing)

Why is Ziggy laughing? (Ziggy might be laughing because he thinks the hats are funny or silly.)

Look at Olive’s face. How does she feel? (Olive might feel embarrassed.)

Do you remember what embarrassed is? Embarrassed is when you think people are looking at you any maybe laughing at you for some reason. Have you ever felt embarrassed? (Ask for a personal example and give one as well.)

Olive feels embarrassed because Ziggy laughed at her. Olive feels embarrassed because Ziggy thinks she looks silly.

## Page 7

### Read: "I'm not sure..."

Look at Olive's face. How does she feel?

Why does Olive say "I'm not sure it's quite hat weather today?" (Olive does not want to wear the hat because she feels embarrassed.)

Why doesn't Olive tell Joe that she does not like the hat? (Olive does not tell Joe that because he would feel sad/disappointed. It would hurt his feelings.) (Take some time to explain this.)

## Page 8

### Read: "Olive and Joe saw Lola..." (cover p. 9)

Look at Lola's face—how does she feel? (She is laughing)

Why is Lola laughing? (Lola might be laughing because she thinks the hats are funny.)

Look at Olive's face. How does she feel? (Olive feels embarrassed.)

Olive feels embarrassed because Lola laughed at her.

## Page 9

### Read: "Maybe I should take off..."

Why does Olive say that?

What does Olive want to do? (take off the hat.)

Why does Olive want to take off the hat? (Olive wants to take off the hat because she feels embarrassed.)

Olive tells Joe a reason why she should take off the hat. (It's big and she might lose it.)

Does Olive think she will really lose the hat? (No—Olive does not want to wear the hat, so she told Joe she might lose it.)

Joe tells Olive that she will not lose the hat.

Why doesn't Olive tell Joe that she does not want to wear the hat? (Olive does not tell Joe that because he would feel sad/disappointed. It would hurt his feelings.)

### **Page 10-11**

**Read : "Joe stopped to sniff..."**

How does Olive feel? (Olive still feels embarrassed.)

What does Matt say?

How does Olive feel when Matt says she looks silly? (Olive feels embarrassed and maybe mad because Matt said she looks silly)

Do you think Matt should say that Olive looks silly? (Friends do not say mean things to each other)

### **Page 12**

**Read: "Olive's tummy felt funny..."**

Why does Olive's tummy feel funny? (Olive's tummy feels funny because she felt embarrassed and mad.)

Have you ever felt that way? (give an example)

How does Olive feel here? (Happy and peaceful).

Look at Olive's face in these two pictures. Can you make an embarrassed face? Now make a happy peaceful face.) (Use mirror and emphasize the contrast.)

Is Olive embarrassed here? (No, she is not embarrassed because no one can see her.)

What would you say to Olive?

### **Page 13**

**Read: "Olive, said Molly..."**

Look at Molly. What does Molly think of Olive's hat? (She thinks it is funny.)

How does Olive feel? (Olive feels very embarrassed because Molly is laughing at her hat.)

Why does Olive say “I’m not Olive?” (Olive does not want to talk to Molly. Olive is so embarrassed that she does not want Molly to see her.)

### **Page 14**

**Read: “Olive just wanted to be alone...”**

Whoa, how does Olive look here?

Why does Olive want to be alone? (Olive is so embarrassed that she does not want to see anyone.)

### **Page 15**

**Read: “Olive couldn’t take it...”**

What did Olive do? (She tried to chew the hat up, shove it in her overalls)

Why did Olive try to get rid of the hat? (Olive feels embarrassed when she wears the hat)

Look at Olive’s face here (3<sup>rd</sup> picture). How does she feel? (Mad, frustrated) Look at these pictures (show pictures). Which person feels like Olive does?

Wait, how do you think Joe will feel if Olive tries to get rid of the hat? (Joe will feel bad if Olive does not like the hat.)

What might Joe think? (Joe might think that Olive does not want to be best friends.)

### **Page 16-17**

**Read: “OLIVE!”**

What did Olive try to do?

Why did Olive try to throw the hat away?

Did Olive want Joe to see her throw the hat away?

How did that make Joe feel?

What does Joe think here? (p. 13) (Joe is sad because Olive is trying to throw the hat away.)

Now how does Olive feel? (Olive was surprised to see Joe. She did not want Joe to see her throw the hat away.)

What would you say to Olive?

What would you say to Joe?

### **Page 18**

**Read: "Joe had left..."**

How does Olive feel? (sad/bad)

Why does Olive feel sad? (Olive feels sad because she has hurt Joe's feelings.)

Olive is sorry because she hurt Joe's feelings.

Was Olive a good friend? (no)

Why? (She hurt Joe's feelings.)

### **Page 19**

**Read: "She had to make it up..."**

What did Olive do? (Got the hat out of the trash and put it on.)

What does it mean to "make it up" to someone? (discuss—make someone feel better, give an example)

What does Olive want to do? (Olive wants to make Joe feel better.)

What does she do to make Joe feel better? (She puts on the hat.)

Do you think Olive likes the hat? (Discuss the fact that she might not like the hat, but she is going to wear it anyway to make Joe feel better.)

How does Olive feel (third picture—she feels happy because she is going to make it up to Joe.)

Friends do not like to hurt each other's feelings. If they do hurt a friend's feelings, they try to make it better.

### **Page 20-21**

**Read: "Olive went into the store..."**

What did Olive do?

How does Olive feel now? (happy)

Wait, Olive looks really silly. Why is Olive so happy when she looks silly? (She thinks the sign will make Joe happy.)

Does Olive feel embarrassed now? (No)

Why not? (Olive just feels happy because she is going to make Joe feel happy.)

Does the hat look silly? (Point out banana peel, etc.) Does Olive care? (no)

Friends try to make friends happy.

### **Page 22-23**

**Read: "Olive stood on the sidewalk..."**

What are Olive's friends doing? (laughing at her)

How does Olive feel? (She feels happy—she does not care if they are laughing.)

Can you make a face like Olive's? (use mirror)

Olive is being a good friend to Joe, isn't she?

### **Page 24--25**

**Read: Then along came Joe..."**

Look at Joe (p. 24) How does Joe feel? (Joe is surprised to see Olive wearing her hat and the sign.)

What does Olive do here? (Olive is wearing the hat AND a sign.)



Why does she do it? (Olive wants to make Joe feel happy.)

How do you think Joe will feel?

**Page 26-27**

**Read: because that's what we are."**

How does Joe feel?

Did Olive make Joe happy?

Olive is being a good friend now.

How does Olive feel?

Joe is happy because Olive is his best friend.

**Page 28**

**Read: And Matt is silly!"**

Look, how does Matt feel? (Matt feels surprised. It is not a good surprise.)

Why did Olive write "Matt is silly" on the back of the sign?

(Maybe Olive was a little mad because Matt said she looked silly.)

**Summary:** Joe was really excited to give Olive a gift. Joe gave Olive a funny hat that said "best friends" on it. Joe had a hat just like Olive's hat. Joe wanted Olive to wear the hat to show that she was his best friend. But Olive didn't like the hat. She was embarrassed to wear the hat because she thought it looked silly. Her other friends laughed at her when she wore the hat. Olive felt very embarrassed when her friends laughed at her. Olive tried to get rid of the hat. When Joe saw Olive throw the hat away, he was very sad. Olive had not been a good friend—she hurt Joe's feelings. Olive wanted to make Joe feel better so she got her hat out of the trash. She also made a big sign that said "best friends." Olive wore the sign and the hat. Joe felt happy when Olive wore the sign and hat. Olive chose to be a good friend to Matt, even though she did not like the hat. Sometimes, friends have to be careful NOT to hurt their friends' feelings.

**Follow-up probes**

**Probe 1, p. 4, 1<sup>st</sup> picture.** Look at Olive. How does Olive feel?

Why does she feel\_\_\_\_\_?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, she might feel surprised. Olive is surprised to get a gift.

**Probe 2, p. 10,** Look at Olive. How does she feel?

Why does she feel\_\_\_\_\_?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, she might feel embarrassed. Olive is embarrassed because of the hat.

**Probe 3, p. 12, 2<sup>nd</sup> picture,** Look at Olive. How does she feel?

Why does she feel\_\_\_\_\_?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, she might happy/peaceful. Olive is happy/peaceful because she is by herself.

**Probe # 4, p. 15, 3<sup>rd</sup> picture,** Look at Olive. How does she feel?

Why does she feel\_\_\_\_\_?

Ask both questions, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, she might feel mad/frustrated. She is frustrated because she cannot get rid of the hat.

**Probe #5, p. 17, 1<sup>st</sup> picture,** Look at Joe. How does he feel?

Why does he feel \_\_\_\_\_?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, he might feel sad. He is sad because Olive is throwing away his gift.

**Probe #24 p.** Look at Joe. How does he feel?

Why does he feel \_\_\_\_\_?

Ask both questions first, but if the emotion response is wrong, say:

OR, he might feel surprised. He is surprised because Olive is wearing the hat and a sign.

**Dialog/enactment activity:**

**Look, I have some toy animals here (Picture cutouts could also be used.). I have a cat like Olive, a turtle like Joe, a dog like Matt and animals like the rest of their friends. I also have two hats. Let's act out this story. Which animal(s) would you like to be? Let me know what the animals are thinking and saying on each page of the book. (Try to elicit complex sentence forms linking emotion with the source that elicits it. Emphasize the fact that Olive needs to hide her feelings to avoid hurting Joe's feelings.)**

**If preferred, guide the child in a modified "readers' theater" where the child voices one or more characters as well as their thoughts and feelings. As an alternative activity, on as many pages as possible, have the child say or dictate dialog or thoughts for the characters. Emphasize what the characters are feeling and why. Create a thought bubble or a dialog bubble attached to the page with a sticky note. When finished, read the story again including the dialog bubbles. Adjust as needed for the individual child.**