



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful*

LAJNA IMAILLAH UK



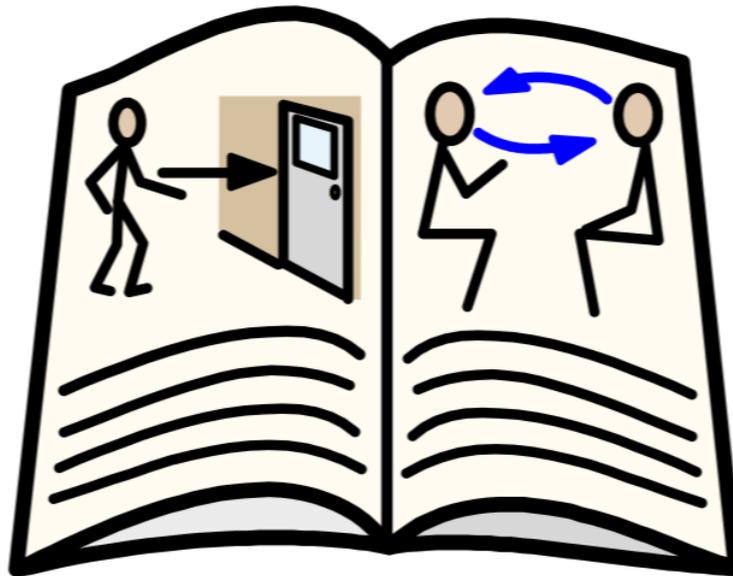
**S.E.N.D**

Lajna & Nasirat

Special Educational Needs & Disability



## Guide To Visuals & Social Stories



# Guide To Visuals and Social Stories

The Lajna UK SEND Committee has created this visuals and social stories guide to enable children and adults with S.E.N.D (Special Educational Needs & Disability) along with their parents/carers to feel included, involved and valued members of our Jama'at. This guide explains how visuals and social stories can make our Jama'at events be more accessible.

## Visual aids for communication

Visual supports can be used as a means of communication for children and adults with S.E.N.D (Special Educational Needs & Disability) especially those who have social communication difficulties and autistic people. Visuals can be adaptable, portable and can be used in most situations.

'Visual supports can help to provide structure and routine, encourage independence, build confidence, improve understanding, help avoid frustration and anxiety, and provide opportunities to interact with others. They can make communication physical and consistent, rather than fleeting and inconsistent like spoken words can be.'  
(<https://www.autism.org.uk/about/strategies/visual-supports.aspx>.)

Visuals can consist of symbols, tactile symbols, drawings, photographs, videos, real objects, written text, printed images, images on smartphone/tablet or computer. Visuals are also used with text in social stories.

## What are social stories and how do they help?

Social stories can help some children and adults with SEND understand social situations more easily and can help reduce anxiety. Social Stories are useful for a wide range of special educational needs. Visuals and social stories help with the following:

- Visuals and social stories can be a useful learning aid for Taleem & Tarbiyyat of children and adults with S.E.N.D.
- Visual social stories can summarise Jama'at activities and events.
- Visuals and social stories help with schedules (what comes next in a series of activities) and 'executive functioning' (planning and organising). This can help a person to cope with changes to routine or events like Eid, Jalsa and Ijtema.
- They can also be used to manage emotions, feelings and behaviour in a positive motivational way with praise and reward.
- Social story content can be adapted to meet different people's needs.
- Social story can help you and autistic person perceives and understands different situations.

## How to use social stories

The social story should be shown to the person at a time when they are feeling calm and relaxed and it should be shown consistently to reinforce it. Monitor how well the story is received and whether it is working and adapt it according to the individual's needs and ability. See Sample Social Story



(Social Story created on <https://widgionline.com/account/documents>)

## For More detailed information on Visuals and Social Stories please see:

National Autistic Society (NAS) Website and links:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/about/strategies/visual-supports.aspx>

<https://www.autism.org.uk/about/strategies/social-stories-comic-strips.aspx>

Online Visuals software:

<https://widgionline.com>