

## Recommendations Re: Language for Social Stories and Videos about Returning To School

Many schools will be putting together short videos or stories as students return to the building. As we prepare these resources, here are some recommendations from your SLPs.

### **Overall Suggestions:**

- Use simple vocabulary
- Pause frequently between sentences to give students time to think (some students might need up to 10 seconds to process what you have said)
- Use short sentences (5- 6 words)
- Aim for 2-4 sentences maximum per video shot or per page.
- Use positive instead of negative language. i.e. "I do \_\_\_\_\_" instead of "I can't/I don't/I won't\_\_\_\_\_")

### **Examples:**

<p><b><u>entering buildings</u></b>            Welcome back to school.            We are glad to see you.            School has changed.            Let me show you how.</p> <p>I say goodbye outside.            My adults stay in the car.            I will see them after school.</p>	<p><b><u>use of washrooms</u></b>            An adult walks with me.            I wait my turn.            I clean my hands.            I sanitize my hands first.            I wash my hands after.</p>
<p><b><u>School routines</u></b>            My day will be shorter.            I might start at a different time.            I go to school on (Monday/Wed, etc.)</p>	<p><b><u>using only the students own materials</u></b>            My stuff is in a bin.            I only use my stuff.            I only eat my food.</p>
<p><b><u>social distancing in school</u></b>            I stay away from others.            I give others personal space.            I try not to touch people.            At least arm's length away.            I follow the signs. I use my personal space cue (hula hoop, signs on floor, etc. that ALL students in class are using)            I stay in my personal bubble.</p>	<p><b><u>following signage in schools</u></b>            I follow the new signs.            I follow the arrows.            I wait at the line.            Signs help keep us safe.            I stay on my side of the hall.            I keep my hands to myself.</p>