



## **Comic Strip Conversations: An Evidence-Based Intervention for Supporting Children with SEN**

### **Introduction**

Comic Strip Conversations (CSCs) are visual tools developed by Carol Gray to help children understand social interactions and perspectives. They use simple drawings and dialogue bubbles to illustrate conversations, thoughts, and feelings.

### **Purpose of Intervention**

The primary aim of CSCs is to:

- Clarify social situations and expectations.
- Support emotional understanding and expression.
- Reduce misunderstandings and anxiety.
- Promote problem-solving and conflict resolution.

### **Target Audience**

CSCs are particularly effective for:

- Children with autism spectrum conditions.
- Pupils with social communication difficulties.
- Learners with emotional regulation challenges.
- Any child with an EHC Plan who benefits from visual and structured support.

### **Who Can Deliver the Intervention**

CSCs can be facilitated by:

- SENCOs and learning support staff.
- Teachers and teaching assistants.
- Educational psychologists and therapists.
- Parents and carers (with guidance).

### **Session Structure**

Each session should:

- Begin with a calm, supportive introduction.
- Use drawings to represent people, speech, and thoughts.
- Explore what was said, what was thought, and how people felt.
- Encourage the child to contribute to the drawings and dialogue.

### **Frequency and Duration**

- Frequency: As needed, often following a social incident or in preparation for a social event.
- Duration: Sessions typically last 10–20 minutes.
- Can be used flexibly as part of ongoing support.

### **Key Principles**

Effective CSCs follow these principles:

- Use simple, clear drawings and symbols.
- Focus on real-life situations relevant to the child.
- Emphasize understanding different perspectives.
- Avoid judgmental or corrective tones.
- Encourage child participation and reflection.



## **Training and Implementation**

To implement CSCs effectively:

- Staff should receive basic training in the method and purpose of CSCs.
- Collaborate with SENCOs and therapists for tailored support.
- Use templates and drawing aids to support consistency.
- Monitor the child's engagement and adapt as needed.

## **Evidence and Outcomes**

Research and practice show that CSCs can:

- Improve social understanding and empathy.
- Reduce behavioural incidents and anxiety.
- Enhance communication and emotional expression.
- Support inclusion and positive peer relationships.

## **Feedback**

Feedback should be gathered from:

- The child (through discussion or observation).
- Parents and carers.
- Class teachers and support staff.
- Behavioural and emotional outcomes.

## **Further Information and Resources**

- Carol Gray's Official Website: <https://carolgraysocialstories.com>
- National Autistic Society: <https://www.autism.org.uk>
- Visual support tools from Twinkl and Widgit
- Local Authority SEN Services and training providers