

PRESS RELEASE

July 31, 2009

Contacts: **Sue Mack**, MAISD Behavior and Autism Spectrum Disorder Consultant at 231-767-7259 or via e-mail at smack@muskegonisd.org
Holly Wilson, MA, Autistic Impaired Consultant at 231-767-7257 or via email at hwilson@muskegonisd.org
Carol Gray, Director of The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding in Grand Rapids, Michigan at 616-748-6030 or info@thegraycenter.org

Online Info: <http://www.thegraycenter.org>

Photo Attached: Carol Gray

Expert to teach adults how to help kids be more successful socially



Internationally known expert Carol Gray will provide a day-long workshop for educators, parents, and child-care providers, on Thursday, August 20, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Muskegon Community College's Stevenson Center. This workshop is being sponsored by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District. Gray will teach adults how to use a tool called "Social Stories™" to help children cope with social situations that may be stressful to them. Adults will learn how to take a proactive approach to helping children avoid tantrums and other negative reactions to social outings or social interactions.

Sue Mack, Behavior and Autism Spectrum Disorder Consultant from the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD), said Gray's presentation will be helpful to adults who parent toddlers, for those who care for or teach preschoolers, and those who care for or teach children, adolescents, and even adults with social-communication delays and differences and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). "Carol Gray is recognized as a national expert in this area," said Mack. "Educators and parents flock to her workshops because the Social Stories™ tool is so simple and powerful. It really works," she added.

According to Gray, she will use lecture, demonstration, case examples, and activities during the fun and fast-paced, upbeat workshop. She will describe the research-based rationale that supports the approach, introduce characteristics that define a Social Story™, and share strategies for using a Social Story™ at home or school. Participants will practice the skills and concepts as they are introduced and write a Social Story™. A follow-up training to further assist educators, child-care providers, and parents will be held 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on October 20, 2009, at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District.

Carol Gray is the Director of The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Carol developed Social Stories™ and Comic Strip Conversations, strategies that are used worldwide with children, adolescents, and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). She has published several resources on topics related to children and adults with ASD. Registration and advance payment of \$30 are required to participate in "Carol Gray-Social Stories™." Go to www.muskegonisd.org or call 231-767-7277 by August 13, 2009. Space is limited.