

## Power Cards

Excerpt from *A Recipe for Student Success* by Amy Gaffney & Cathy Pratt

Sometimes, it can be helpful for students to connect more with the information if the person's favorite interests are used as part of the story information and illustrations. Power Cards (Gagnon and Myles 2016) are a type of social narrative that capitalizes on a student's special interest, hero, or role model. It is an easy-to-implement strategy that addresses a behavior of concern in two parts: A hero or role model with a problem and a scenario for solving it, and a card that acts as a visual support, sharing what the hero does to solve the problem. Power Cards can be an effective strategy for individuals of all ages and developmental levels.

### Scenario: Football Player

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year my favorite football team players live in a bubble environment to protect themselves and their teammates from the virus. They live in a specific hotel and stay with their team for practices and meals. They do not interact with the public. When they are not playing football, they wash their hands often, keep their hands away from their faces, and they wear a mask when it is required. I can be safe just like the football team by doing these things and staying in my bubble environment with my family and interacting with just a small number of people. This is how it will be until we have more information about COVID-19 and how we can stay safe.*

### Power Card



### Staying Safe During COVID-19

1. Wash my hands frequently.
2. Keep my hands off my face.
3. Wear my mask when told to do so.
4. Stay in my bubble.

Power Cards are effective because they capitalize on the characteristics of many individuals with autism: a keen visual sense, a highly-focused interest, and the fact that the hero has a non-threatening way to solve the problem. Power Cards can be used in any environment. For example, one family developed a Power Card (see below) for their child, who has a highly-focused interest in their local football team. Their child was motivated to use safe behaviors during COVID because these are behaviors their favorite football team members used.

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Another family developed a unicorn Power Card for their child who loves unicorns and needs support following social distancing rules standing in line (see below). This card is designed to support the learning needs of this student who responds best to structured information with fewer words.

### Scenario: Unicorns

*I love unicorns and unicorns always follow the social distancing rules.*

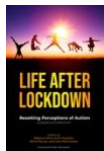
*They wait in line and stand six feet away from other unicorns.*

*When I stand in line, I will remember to wait and stand six feet away from other people, just like unicorns.*

### Power Card



**The unicorn waits in line and stands six feet away.**



<https://www.amazon.com/Life-After-Lockdown-Resetting-Perceptions/dp/1956110038>