



Total Communication Topic- Communicating with People with Aphasia

Aphasia is a communication disability which is often caused by a stroke. Aphasia occurs when the communication centres of the brain are damaged.

As with all conditions, each person with aphasia experiences it differently. In the most severe cases, people with aphasia may not be able to read, write, use numbers or speak at all. Some people may have just a few words.

Activities such as conversing, reading or watching television may become a source of frustration and anxiety for a person with aphasia and those who love and care for them.

Top Communication Tips

There are several ways that visual aids and techniques can be used to improve communication with a person who has aphasia. Some of the suggestions below are taken from a document produced by Connect, a charity for people living with aphasia. To find out more about Connect and to download a free aphasia information pack, visit their website at: <http://www.ukconnect.org/index.aspx>.



Use a pen and paper



Draw diagrams or pictures



Write down key words

Examples of resources made by T.C. Now for People with aphasia



These flash cards were Created for a man with aphasia who wanted to order drinks at a bar. The cards were pocket sized and attached to a key ring. They allowed the man to Choose and order his own drinks independently.



These bookshelf signs were the result of a series of consultations with a local stroke survivor's group. The members chose images that they found bold and easily recognisable. The signs are designed to help those with aphasia to find the books they want independently.



Speak ability is a charity that specifically focuses on help and support for adults with aphasia. Through their website, you can find information about aphasia and the charity. The website also provides information on Speak ability's aphasic helpline, training opportunities, national aphasia self-help groups and the aphasia forum. The charity also publishes a range of resources designed to support people with aphasia and those who support them.



Aphasia Software
Finder



App of the Month



<http://www.aphasiastsoftwarefinder.org/app-software-list>

People are affected by aphasia in different ways and to different degrees. There are many apps available that aim to assist individuals with a range of difficulties at varying levels. The Aphasia Software Finder is a list of apps compiled by Tavistock Trust for Aphasia. Each app on the list has a short summary, price and link to where the app can be downloaded.

This Month's Signs

Holiday

1. Fingers of on hand touch side of the head.
2. Hand moves away from head in small movement. Palm faces forward.



Plane

1. Extend thumb and little finger
2. Move hand away from body.



Train

1. Close fist and bend elbow to 90°.
2. Make circular motion at side like a train wheel.



Ferry (Boat)

1. Touch finger tips together to make the shape of the front of a boat.
2. Move hands forward.



News

Total Communication Now would like to congratulate Jo on the arrival of her daughter Phoebe.

We would also like to welcome Rosie who will be joining the team whilst Jo is on maternity leave.