

Helping a Person with Aphasia Get Their Message Across





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- **Always acknowledge that they are a competent person**
 - **Acknowledge that they know what they want to say but can't say it** (e.g., "I know you know what it is").
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- **Be patient!** Give the person **time to talk and respond.**
 - **Ask clarifying questions** that can be answered with **yes or no** (e.g. *Are you talking about someone in your family?*).
 - **Give two (2) choices**, e.g. *Do you want an apple or an orange?*
Show each option and let the person choose the one they want.
 - **Accept all communication attempts.**
 - Pay attention to their **facial expressions, body language and tone.**
 - **Do not finish the person's statement** for them.

- Encourage them to support their talking with **other forms of communication** such as:

- **writing, typing or texting**

- **using gestures** (e.g. thumbs up , thumbs down , actions like bringing hand to mouth for 'eating')

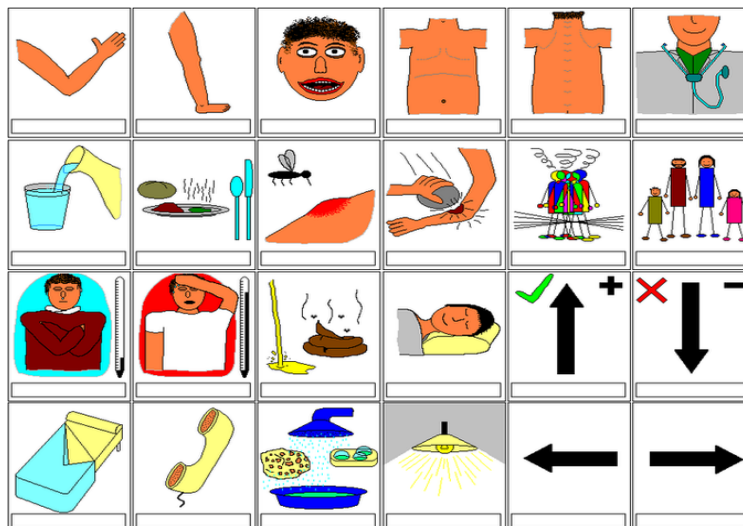
- **pointing to photos and objects**

- **drawing**

- **emojis**     

- physical objects like **calendars, maps** and **newspapers**

- **communication books or charts**



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- **Repeat back** what you heard, to make sure you've understood.

The next leaflet will provide **specific tips** about helping a person with aphasia to **understand what you say**.