

WHAT IS APHASIA?



Aphasia affects not only language but social relationships themselves. It is imperative to pursue therapy with a specialized speech-language pathologist in order to recover lost abilities and effectively communicate in daily life.



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Aphasia is an impairment of language, affecting the four domains of language (speaking, understanding, reading, and writing).

CAUSES:

Aphasia is due to injury to the brain, most commonly from a stroke, but may also arise from head trauma, brain tumors, or infections.

SEVERITY:

The severity of aphasia is completely dependent upon the area of damage in the brain. Aphasia can be so severe as to make communication with the patient almost impossible, or it can be very mild.

Most commonly, multiple aspects of language are impaired, however that is not always the case. Some individuals may only have a single symptom such as difficulty retrieving words effectively.

TREATMENT:

Speech-Language Pathologists assist in the recovery of language. We are specially trained to improve communication through evidence-based treatments, aid the individual in participating in meaningful activities, and reach their goals.

CALL (716) 817-8855
to discuss personalized treatment options



APHASIA STRATEGIES



Do you have **TROUBLE SPEAKING** because of **APHASIA**? Try these strategies in conversation!



THINK about what you want to say **BEFORE** you say it



Use **FACIAL EXPRESSIONS**, **GESTURES**, and **POINTING** to get your idea across



DRAW or **WRITE** keywords



If you can't think of a word, **DESCRIBE** it or use a **SIMILAR WORD**



Eliminate **DISTRACTIONS** and **LOOK** at your communication partner



CAREGIVER STRATEGIES



Does your loved one have aphasia?
Remember to use these strategies to help
with communication!



- 1** Speak **SLOWLY** and use **SIMPLE** sentences
- 2** Stay on **ONE TOPIC** at a time and when you change topics, establish it before moving on
- 3** **BE PATIENT** and allow **EXTRA TIME** for a response
- 4** Talk **ONE-ON-ONE** and eliminate distractions
- 5** **DRAW** or **WRITE** to support your speech
- 6** **ASK** if they would like help before filling in a word they are stuck on
- 7** **DON'T PRETEND** to understand if you do not, ask them to rephrase it
- 8** Use **NORMAL** loudness and intonation

REMEMBER:
Aphasia is a loss of
language, not intellect!

