

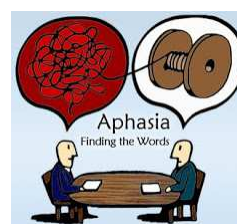
A Communication Page Set for People with Severe Aphasia

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What is Aphasia?



- Aphasia is an acquired communication disorder that impairs a person's ability to process language, but does not necessarily affect intelligence (National Aphasia Association, www.aphasia.org)



What works best?

- Many different models for identifying and teaching supportive strategies
- Many different types of support available
- Electronic and non-electronic options



Tablets

- Dominate the North American Consumer market
- They are part of everyday life for many people



Electronic Options

- Some were too expensive
- Some were too complicated for our population



Available Page Sets

- Were not successful
- Too much modification
- Didn't incorporate commonly used communication supports
 - Pain scale
 - Maps
 - Calendar



British Columbia

- Provincial program for AAC uses TouchChat for symbol based communication systems
- We created a page set that would work for our clients, using a TouchChat vocabulary set and making generic modifications

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Creating the Pages

- Gathered vocabulary and architectural ideas from SLPs who work exclusively with people with severe aphasia
- Followed the core values from the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia
- Expected the pages to be part of a multi-modal communication system

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Life Participation Approach to Aphasia

- Core Values
 - Enhancement of life participation
 - Service for everyone affected by aphasia
 - Service at all stages and for all degrees
 - Documented outcome measures
 - Consider personal and environmental factors



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Page Set Features

- Can be used by people with different
 - Types of aphasia
 - Degrees of severity
 - Range of cognitive issues
- Can be used to enhance understanding of spoken language




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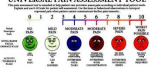


Page set Features

- Options to personalize
 - Messages
 - Topic setters
 - Scripts for
 - Narratives
 - Social interactions
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Directing Care
 - Repairing breakdowns


Page Set Options

- Symbols
- Pictures
- Words
- Visual scenes
- Life stories
- Maps
- Schedules
- Scales

Results

- Being used with 12 SLPs
 - Urban environment
 - Inpatient and outpatients
 - Stroke groups



Survey Results

- Acceptance
 - was high for both speech pathologists and clients
 - In a hospital setting
 - Support for clients and for speech pathologists
 - Easier to customize than a low tech system



Survey Results

- Limitations
 - Difficult to insert videos
 - Unsatisfactory voice when rate was slowed
 - Never enough time for collecting information and programming it!



Get a Copy

- It is called: “Aphasia – GF Strong & CAYA”
- available to download from DropBox
- Email sgauthier@cayabc.org for the link
- If you already have TouchChat, you can download it from the Public Folders in iShare
- iShare -> Public Folders -> Adult -> General Communication

References

- National Aphasia Association, www.aphasia.org
- Life Participation Approach to Aphasia
<http://www.aphasia.ca/research-projects/life-participation-approach-to-aphasia-lpaa/>
- TouchChat <http://touchchatapp.com/>

- www.assistive-technology.ca
- www.cayabc.org



Thank You!

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