

Tips for Aphasia Care

My _____ has Aphasia.

I know his/her hearing may be impacted. I will:

- Minimize background noise during conversation
- Face my loved one, such that my facial expressions and speech movements are clearly visible

I know his/her attention skills may be decreased. I will:

- Get his/her attention prior to talking
- Use keywords and pictures repeatedly
- Stick to one topic at a time
- Signal changes in topics
- Respect him/her and remember I am talking to an adult and not a child

I know that his/her memory skills may be impacted. I will:

- Use concrete objects during conversations. For example, photo albums, toothbrush, etc. as I provide care in daily life activities
- Reduce my rate of speech

I know that his/her executive skills may be impacted. I will:

- Simplify
- Touch and cue
- Assist by giving beneficial suggestions
- Repeat, in all tasks and activities as essential and required
- Demonstrate compassion if/when a meltdown occurs

I know language comprehension is challenged. I will:

- Draw/Write
- Gesture
- Sign
- Point.....along with simple, short verbal language as beneficial
- Model

I know that speech production might be challenging. I am aware of:

- Eye gazers
- Yes/No grids or bracelets
- Simple communication grids
- Alphabet boards
- Giving him/her time to communicate

I know that emotional challenges/mood swings and drug related awareness issues occur during prolonged stays in health care institutions. I will:

- Be patient
- Touch with love and care
- Share and spread hope and joy