



Tips for Improving Communication with Patients with Aphasia

From setting goals to working through therapy exercises, communication is key. When working with a patient with aphasia, it might be harder for them to understand you and to communicate their thoughts and needs. Here are 12 tips to help improve communication during your sessions:

1. **Minimize distractions and background noise**
2. **Keep communication simple, but adult**
3. **Use several modes of communication**
4. **Allow time for a response**
5. **Talk with the person who has aphasia, not for them**
6. **Establish topic, indicate when topic changes**
7. **Present ideas one at a time**
8. **Use yes/no questions to confirm understanding**
9. **Use gestures, facial expressions and body language**
10. **Draw pictures and write key words to help convey messages**
11. **Use visual aids and pictures to convey ideas and help with goal setting**
12. **Use high-tech AAC to convey personal information, share medical information, and create customized icons and exercises**

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