

AAC And Aphasia: Putting Research Into Practice

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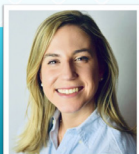


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Disclosures

Caitlin and Amanda are full-time, salaried employees at Lingraphica, and thereby receives financial compensation from the company.



Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe the benefits of early introduction of high-tech AAC post stroke
2. Discuss key factors that impact success of people with aphasia using high-tech AAC
3. Identify features of high-tech AAC that improve storytelling abilities in people with aphasia



Agenda

- Introduction
- Role of AAC in Aphasia Rehab: When and how to implement AAC usage
- AAC in an acute rehab setting: Yes, you can!
- Evaluating candidates for AAC: Review of factors that impact success
- Strategies to overcome barriers to AAC Use
- Setting up for Success: beneficial features of high-tech AAC
- Q&A



Introduction

- History of evidence-based AAC is often with motor speech impairments
- Myths persist regarding best practices for AAC and aphasia
- Common questions remain about AAC and aphasia



Research Review



Revisiting the Role of Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Aphasia Rehabilitation

(Aimee Dietz, Sarah E. Wallace and Kristy Weissling, 2020)



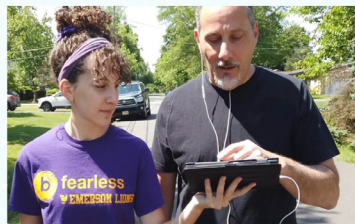
Key Points

- Beyond wants and needs
- AAC to enhance abilities
- Early introduction of AAC

Key Point #1:

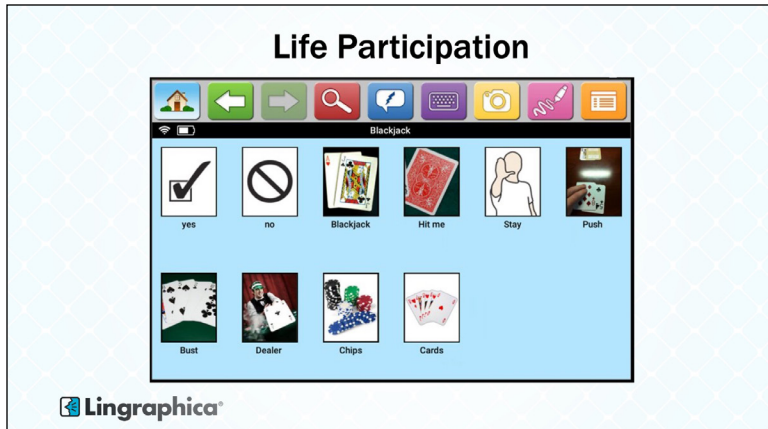
Beyond Wants and Needs

- Social closeness
- Life participation
- Sharing personal identity, attitudes and feelings



Maintaining Connection






Key Point #2:

AAC to Enhance Abilities

- Address needs now and enhance language for the future
- Self-cueing
- Fear of “learned non-use”




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Key Point #3:

Early Introduction of AAC

- Reduce stigma and sense of permanence
- Back-up plan



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Jessica Alves, MA, CCC-SLP



Communication Barriers



Three times more likely to experience
a preventable adverse event.
(Bartlett et al., 2008)



Greater dissatisfaction
with their care
(Hoffman et al., 2005)



Communication Barriers: Post Stroke PWA

Report being excluded from
healthcare conversations
(Tompkins et al., 2013)

Healthcare professionals
report dreading, limited, or
avoid talking with PWA
(Carregar et al., 2020)

Not receiving
enough information
(Tompkins et al., 2013)

Limited involvement
in decision making
(Hemsley et al., 2013)

Inappropriate
discharge
(Hemsley et al., 2013)



Communication in Acute Care & IRF



600,000



Joint
Commission



Early Introduction
of AAC

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Consider This Question

How long is too long to
go without a reliable
way to communicate?



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Benefits

- Early Intervention
- IRF – greater intensity of service
- Facilitates transition to community
- Improves timeline for obtaining a device
- Improves patient satisfaction

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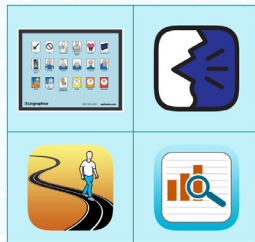
Barriers

- Medical Complexity
- Interdisciplinary Education & Buy-In (MD, PA, NP, RN, etc)
- Patient & Family Education, Buy-In, Coping, & Emotional Readiness
- Time
 - SLP Schedule
 - Patient LOS
- AAC Resource Availability



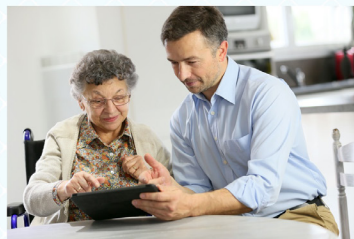
Lingraphica Tools

- Lingraphica Low Tech Communication Boards
- Lingraphica Apps
 - Small Talk Apps
 - Talkpath Therapy
 - Lingraphica QuickAssess App
- Lingraphica Educational Resources for SLP & Patients/Caregivers



Transition & Handoff: Just Connect!

- Lingraphica!
- Physician/Medical Team
- SLP at next level of care
- Social Work and Case Management



Case Study

- 19-year-old English/Spanish male
- Level 1 Trauma, s/p assault, CVA
- Mixed Receptive-Expressive Aphasia
- Verbal Apraxia
- Hospital & AAC Course
 - ICU
 - Acute Medical Floor
 - Outpatient



Amanda Gunn, MEd, CCC - SLP



High-Technology Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Poststroke Aphasia: A Review of the Factors That Contribute to Successful Augmentative and Alternative Communication Use.

(Shannon Taylor, Sarah Jane Wallace, and Sarah Elizabeth Wallace)



Key Points

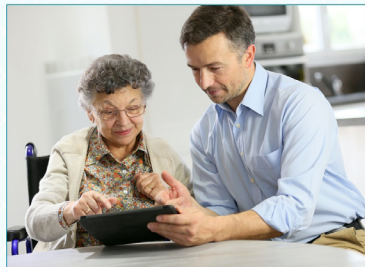
- Support and training in aphasia population
- Several factors influence success
 - Consider during evaluation
 - Management strategies



Key Point #1:

Training Period

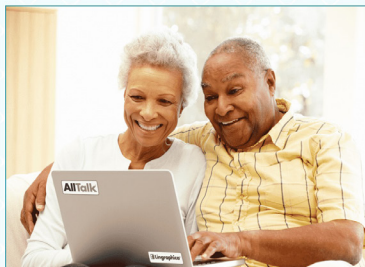
- Support and training in aphasia population



Key Point #2:

Body Structure and Function Factors for Success

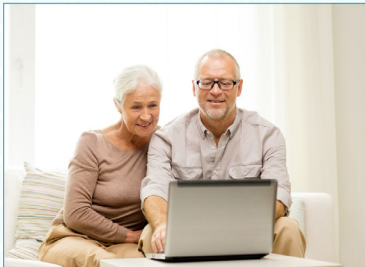
- Language
- Cognition



Key Point #3:

Personal Factors for Success

- Age
- Client Insight
and Expectations



Key Point #4

Environmental Factors for Success

- Social Supports
- Therapist Beliefs
- Service Delivery Model



DeAnna Beauford, MS, CCC-SLP



AAC and Aphasia in Outpatient Rehab

- Insights from 30+ trials
 - Hospital-based outpatient facility
 - Wide range of ages
 - Variety of populations



Key Factors to Consider

- Severity of language impairment and cognitive deficits
- Age of patient and/or communication partner
- Insight awareness of patient
- Role of the communication partner
- Positive vs negative involvement



SLP Plan for Success

- Goal Setting for future expectations
- Loaners and the Lingraphica Certification Program
- Early Introduction of AAC
- Staff Training within the clinic
- AAC usage for patient through all elements of clinic
- Inpatient to Outpatient referrals: be prepared
- Consistent communication with consultant



Outpatient Barriers

- Insurance
 - Limited visits vs denied treatment coverage
- Lack of caregiver support
- Poor insight awareness
- No follow-up during at-home trial



AAC Cafe

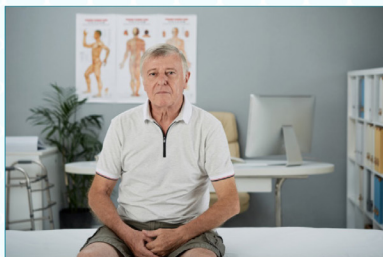
- Goals:
 - Fellowship
 - Updates on devices
 - Education on other Lingraphica programs
 - Address topics (Alexa, caregiver struggles, etc...)
- Outcomes
 - Motivation
 - Increased insight awareness
 - Friendships/connections



Case Study

Background Information

Communication Impairment



Case Study

Solution

- TouchTalk trial
 - Personalization
 - Accessibility



Case Study

Outcome



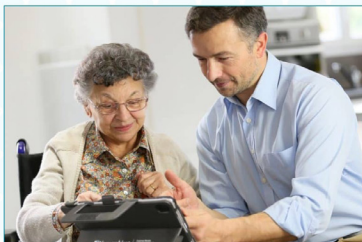
Supporting Narrative Retells for People With Aphasia Using Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Photographs or Line Drawings? Text or No Text?

Julie Griffith, Aimee Dietz and Kristy Weissling



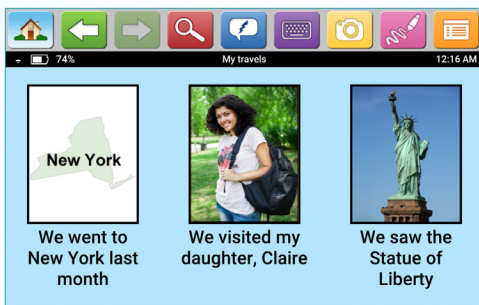
Key Points

- AAC did not reduce verbal output
- AAC supports storytelling
- AAC design impacts success



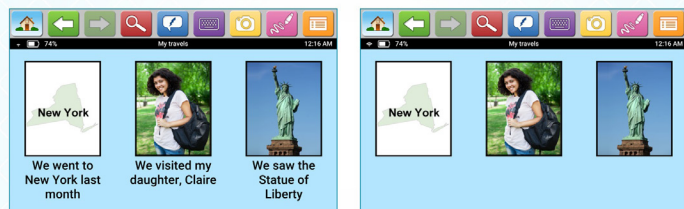
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AAC Supports Storytelling



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Presence of Text



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Photos vs. Drawings



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Personally Relevant or Generic Photos?



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Summary

- AAC can play an important role in aphasia rehabilitation
- Benefits include compensatory and therapeutic functions
- Early introduction can increase success and reduce stigma
- Many factors interact to influence success
- AAC design can impact the user's success
- AAC does not impede a patient's progress with verbal speech

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How Can You Work with Lingraphica?

SLP Device Trials

- When you CAN see your patient
- Submit for a trial at [Aphasia.com](https://aphasia.com)
- Device shipped to SLP
- SLP completes trial with Lingraphica assistance
- SLP does Language Assessment and determines device appropriateness

Patient/Care Partner Trainings

- When you CANNOT see your patient
- Lingraphica does a Needs Assessment
- ID LPAA goals for both patient and Care Partner
- Customize device based on goals
- Refers patient back to you for Language Assessment and to determine device appropriateness



Next Steps

Visit AACBBeyond.com

- Earn your CE credit /certificate of completion for today's course
- Schedule a consultation or call to learn more or begin a trial

Join the Conversation on Slack

- #research_into_practice



Sources

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