



INFORMATION PAGE

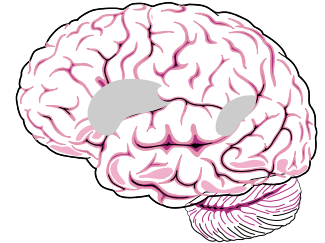
Aphasia: How Family Members Can Help...

Aphasia is a language disorder that results from damage to portions of the brain that are responsible for language. Family members are encouraged to try the following:



USE STRATEGIES

- **Simplify** language by using short, uncomplicated sentences.
- **Repeat** the content words or **write down** key words to clarify meaning as needed.
- **Minimize distractions**, such as a blaring radio, whenever possible.
- **Encourage** any type of communication, whether it is speech, gesture, pointing, or drawing.
- Allow the individual **plenty of time** to talk.
- Help the individual become involved in activities outside the home. Seek out **support groups** such as stroke clubs.



SHOW RESPECT

- Maintain a **natural conversational manner** appropriate for an adult.
- **Include** the person with aphasia in conversations.
- Ask for and value the **opinion of the person** with aphasia, especially regarding family matters.
- **Avoid correcting** the individual's speech.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
10801 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
(800) 638-8255 (Toll Free)
(301) 897-5700 (Voice or TTY)
<http://www.asha.org> (Internet)
- Brain Injury Association, Inc.
105 North Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(800) 444-6443 (Toll Free)
<http://www.biausa.org> (Internet)

Information on this page is partially based on Aphasia Fact Sheet (reviewed October 1997) by National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Disclaimer: This information is intended for your use as appropriate. There are other possible options. Always speak to your doctor, nurse, or other persons whom you see for your health care needs if you have any questions.

Provided as a courtesy by:

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Communications Disorders Department • 7601 E. Imperial Highway • Downey, CA 90242

Phone: 562-401-7687 • FAX: 562-402-6690 • Please visit us at <http://rancho.org>

L. Chapdelaine, MS, CCC-SLP CDD0004Aphasia How Family.doc 10/15/02