

Ideas to Help Communicate With a Loved One Who has Aphasia

Your loved one has aphasia (a-FAY-zha). They may have trouble naming an item or expressing an idea. They may also have trouble reading and writing. Use the tips in the chart to help communicate.

Strategies	What You Can Do	Strategies	What You Can Do
use of an item	Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “What do you do with it?” ■ “How is it used?” ■ “What is used with it?” 	gesture the idea	Try: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Show an example of gesturing. ■ Pretend you are using it. ■ Use your hands to show me what you would do with it.
location of the item	Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Where would I find it?” ■ “Is there one in this room or house?” ■ “Can you point to it?” ■ “Can you take me to it?” 	description of the item	Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “What does it look like?” ■ “What parts does it have?” ■ “What color is it?” ■ “Show me something in this room that’s the same color.” ■ “What goes with it?”
write	Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Can you write the word?” 	draw	Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Draw a picture of it.”
communication notebook	Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Can you find it in the book?” 	identify the context	Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Are you asking a question?” ■ “Are you trying to tell me something?” ■ “Is it about... (you, family, home)?”