

Communication tips for:

General suggestions

- Adult conversations
- Patience
- Humor
- Non-verbal communication
- Do **not** pretend to understand

Suggestions for speaking

- Short and simple sentences
- No distractions
- Expressive voice
- Pointing and gestures
- Written words and drawings

Suggestions for asking

- Yes** or **no** questions
- Clear answer choices
- Verbal** and **written** choices
- Few answer choices
- Extra time to answer

Suggestions for listening

- Be patient
- Offer support
- Give suggestions

Check Your Understanding

- Repeat what you heard
- If you understand, show it
- If you do **not** understand, do **not** pretend

Check Their Understanding

- Notice facial expression
- Ask “Do you understand?”
- Repeat what you said
- Write important words

More information

- The Aphasia Institute:

www.aphasia.ca/

- Find a speech-language pathologist:

www.asha.org

(800) 638-8255

References

- Biel, M. (2008, May). Supported Conversation. *Stroke Connection*, pp. 20-21. Available at http://www.strokeassociation.org/idc/groups/stroke-public/@wcm/@hcm/@mag/documents/downloadable/ucm_463075.pdf
- Kagan, A. (1998). Supported conversation for adults with aphasia: Methods and resources for training conversation partners. *Aphasiology*, 12(9), 816-830.