

## Techniques you can use right away

The National Aphasia Association recommends the following:

### Enhance comprehension:

- ❖ Communicate in quiet environments
- ❖ Use facial expressions, gestures, drawings, and/or written words
- ❖ Speak slowly, face to face, and use short sentences

### Enhance spoken communication:

- ❖ Allow time for response
- ❖ Ask simple yes/no questions
- ❖ Encourage use of facial expressions, gestures, drawings, and/or written words



Photo credit: <http://aphasia.org>



Photo credit: <http://itawc.com/about-aphasia/>

## Helpful Resources

### Apps to support communication:

YouTalk AAC (Android)

Talkingtiles (Android)

SmallTalk (Apple)

Pictello (Apple)

### Websites:

<http://www.aphasia.org>

<http://praacticalaac.org/strategy/aac-assessment-for-people-with-aphasia/>

<http://aac-rerc.psu.edu/index.php/webcasts/show/id/4>

### Article:

Aphasia and AAC: Enhancing Communication Across Health Care Settings

<http://www.asha.org>

### Online directory of speech-language pathologists:

<http://www.asha.org/proserv/>

Nathan Bickley and Emma Boyd

## Connecting with your loved one in the hospital



Photo credit: Kelly Dyson, 2011

## Supporting communication of persons with aphasia



University of New Mexico  
Department of Speech and Hearing

# Getting started: Communication beyond speech

## Communication boards

### What are communication boards?

- ❖ Visual representation of language

### What are communication boards for?

- ❖ Communication despite difficulty understanding and/or verbalizing
- ❖ Expression of urgent needs
- ❖ Communication with doctors, nurses, friends, and family

### What are the options for communication boards?

- ❖ Different boards for different situations
- ❖ Can use words, photographs, drawings, and/or single letters
- ❖ Simple or complex
- ❖ Make your own by hand or using software, or use premade options

## Using the two included sample boards



Photo credit: <http://medypal.com>

### About the boards:

- ❖ Designed for use in hospital
- ❖ Choose board based on situation, preference or literacy skills

### Symbols designed to:

- ❖ Answer yes/no questions
- ❖ Indicate location and severity of pain
- ❖ Express bodily sensations (such as hot and cold)
- ❖ Make common requests
- ❖ Spell words or messages

### Indicating responses:

- ❖ Point to symbols (quickest way)
- ❖ If they cannot point: scan through options with your finger
  - Have them indicate in some way (grunt, facial expression, head nod) when you have reached correct symbol

### Support success:

- ❖ Teach by doing: use the board while you speak to demonstrate use
- ❖ Consult speech-language and occupational therapists to optimize use



Photo credit: <http://aac-rerc.psu.edu>

GP30

TOUCH FOR "NO"



No = eyes closed



# Health Care Communication Board

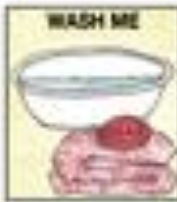
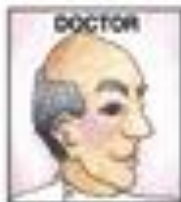
For Medical, Physical and Emotional Information

TOUCH FOR "YES"



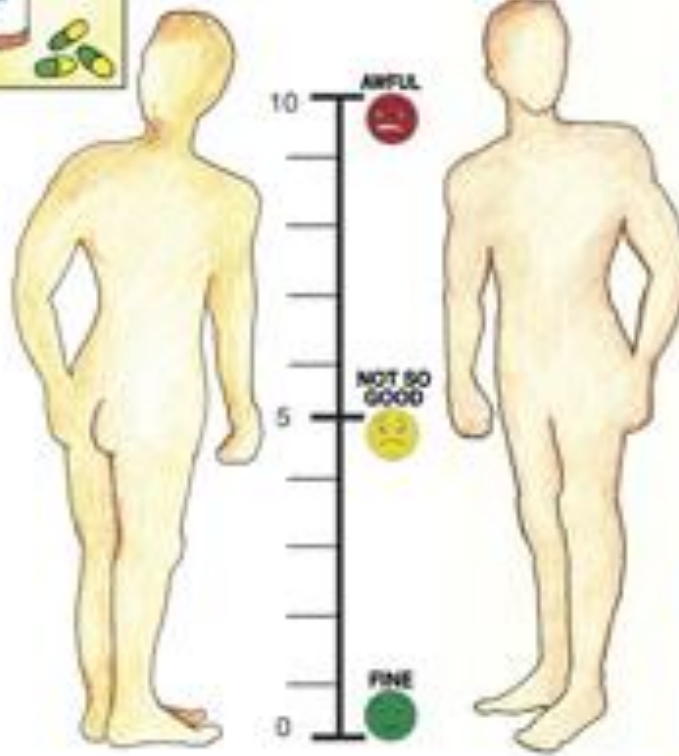
Yes = eyes wide open

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Have patient touch pictures to request wants and needs. If unable, caregiver touches pictures and gets yes/no response from patient.  
Yes = thumbs up, nod, or eyes wide open;  
No = thumbs down, nod or eyes closed.



## Pain Scale

Touch Where It Hurts



No

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

0

Yes

A

B

C

D

?

I need to  
go to the  
Bathroom

E

F

G

H

Do You  
Under  
stand

I

J

K

L

M

N

I'm hungry

Please

O

P

Q

R

S

T

It starts  
with . . .

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

I need a  
drink

Thank  
You

Communication board credit: sterlingfrazer.com