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

---

Helpful Resources

**Apps to support communication:**
- YouTalk AAC (Android)
- Talkingtiles (Android)
- SmallTalk (Apple)
- Pictello (Apple)

**Websites:**
- http://www.aphasia.org
- 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/

---

Connecting with your loved one in the hospital

Supporting communication of persons with aphasia

University of New Mexico
Department of Speech and Hearing

Nathan Bickley and Emma Boyd
**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

**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

**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

Photo credit: [http://medypal.com](http://medypal.com)

Photo credit: [http://aac-erc.psu.edu](http://aac-erc.psu.edu)