AAC for Aphasia: Use of Visual Scene Displays

Presenters (Order of Appearance)

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Visual Scene Displays

**Purposes:**

1. To provide a brief introduction to persons with aphasia
2. To examine the role of context in aphasia intervention
3. To describe the Visual Scenes Display Project
4. To present experiences of 3 persons with aphasia
Aphasia and Apraxia

- **Aphasia**: A language interpretation (reception) and formulation (expression) impairment resulting from an acquired brain injury.

- **Apraxia of Speech**: A neurogenic speech disorder that is characterized by erroneous production of speech sounds, reduced rate of speech, increased time in transitioning between sounds, syllables, and words, and disordered prosody.
Review of Capability

- Reductions in comprehension and expression of language including retrieving words or sentence structures
Review of Capability

- Relatively preserved intellectual ability
- Relatively preserved visual-spatial ability
- Preserved memory
- May experience reduction in processing speed, attention, problem solving
Range of Capabilities

- Wide range of differences
- Residual capabilities
- Overall severity
- Response to intervention
Aphasia Intervention

- Reduce the severity of the impairment with the goal of restoring language processing.
- Develop and maintain compensatory strategies to support communication interaction
- Both
Listeners

- Severe aphasia not only impacts the speaker, but also the listener(s).
- For more severe aphasia, the listener must play an important role in co-constructing messages and intents.
- It is common for a person (or a couple of people) close to the individual with aphasia to adopt the role of communication facilitator or interpreter.
Impact on Social Roles

- Prior to aphasia, the individual has usually lived a typical life with multiple social roles and relationship.
- Severe aphasia dramatically reduces one’s social network
- A goal of intervention is to maintain and expand their social network.
Wide range of strategies are currently employed to support communication interaction depending on needs and capabilities of the individual:

- Drawing (Lyons)
- Written Choice (Garrett)
- Communication Books: To support attempts to communicate through residual speech
- AAC devices--Often to support specific functions--telephone, presentations, routine communication such as greetings, prayers, jokes, and so on.
The VISUAL SCENES project is designed to develop strategies to provide persons with aphasia (and apraxia) with visual contextual support to navigate the options of AAC strategies and to communicate messages.
Carl Olson
Project Consultant
Visual Scene Display: Introduction to the System

Miechelle McKelvey, SLP
Rita Gembala, Aphasia Expert
Hello

My name is Rita Gembala

My husband's name is Ray.

My daughter is Cindy.

I had a stroke 3 years ago.

This device helps me to communicate.

I am in speech therapy at UNK.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home  Back
Hello

Would you like to see my family?

Our children

Ray in Hawaii

Ray in the military

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home  Back

UNK Group
Our daughter Kathy and her husband Bill.
They live in Norfolk.

Here are their children.
Hello

Alec's trip to India.
He went there as part of a mission.

How about your family?

Kaitlin was in Jessica's wedding.
The boys looked good.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home  Back
Would you like to see my family?

Our children

Ray in Hawaii

Ray in the military

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home Back
Hello

Ray was in the military

We lived in Hawaii.

Have you ever been to Hawaii?

I visited all the towns on the island of Oahu.

How many Islands?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home  Back
Arizona Memorial
Koko Head Crater
Do you know anyone on the Pearl Harbor Memorial?
By myself in 1947.
The flight to Honolulu
Facts about Hawaii.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home
Back
Hello
Fine and you.
Talk to Ray
Just a minute
Good bye
I love you

Hello

Home
Back
Hello

This is my Red Hat Society group.

Red Hat Society was started by

Our group

My daughters got the group together.

Here are my girls.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home Back
I made hat pins.

I loved to do crafts.

Cindy and I went shopping for the supplies.

The ladies really enjoyed the pins.

It was wonderful to give each member a special gift.
All the ladies had on funny hats and purple outfits.
Here I am putting the hat pins on some of the hats.
Hello

Veteran's honor rose.

I love roses.

What kind of flowers do you like?

Mandevilla.

Tell me about your flowers.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home

Back

UNK Group
Hello

First Roses
45 years ago
Tell me about your first house?
Golden Shower
Do you have a favorite flower?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Home  Back  UNK Group
The mums are blooming. Tell me about your favorite flowers.

Purple mums Your favorite season.
Hello

Please Clean

UNK Group

Home

Back
Theme Development
Aimee Dietz, SLP
Meet Ron
Meet Pat
I went to Hawaii with my husband Leroy.

While I was there I went on a cruise with Leroy.

Have you ever been on a cruise before?

The pacific ocean is beautiful, have you ever seen it?

Here is Maui, the main island of Hawaii.

There was a lot I had to do before going to Hawaii.
While we were there we met Don Ho!
That was the best part of the whole trip!
Don Ho is my favorite singer.
His song “Tiny Bubbles” is my favorite song.
Have you ever met a famous person?
I bet you don’t have a picture with him or have his autograph!
Ron
Can you guess who these guys are?

Yes! That is me and Duke on the Green River in the 1980’s

I took a 9-day trip with my buddies Duke, Ron, and Mark to Utah.

Here is a shot of me at the ‘put-in’ of Green River

Would you like to see some more shots of this adventure?

Home  BACK
Low tech visual scenes

Kristy Weissling, SLP
Context in therapy

Today’s session

Not good                ok                Very good

Pictures you used

Not good                ok                Very good
Context in therapy

Stop  Keep going  I’m thinking  Water
Visual Scenes and traditional therapy

I want to eat at _______. Are we eating at _______?

Let's go to ________.
Navigation
More Navigation
Justin’s Page

I have a son Justin he is 10 years old

Learning to jet ski
Building a ginger bread house
Playing Basketball

Playing with the dog
Catching a fish
Jumping in!
Personal Centered Context
Visual Scene Display Project
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