



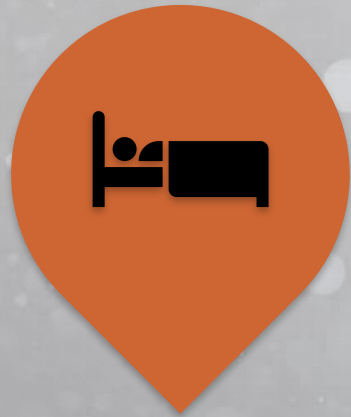
ICU CLINICAL SKILLS SERIES

COMMUNICATION

LAURA DEAK SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

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WHAT WILL BE COVERED TODAY



WHO IS AT RISK OF
COMMUNICATION
DIFFICULTIES ON CCU?



TYPES OF COMMUNICATION
DIFFICULTIES ON CCU



WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP

WHAT PUTS PEOPLE IN ICU AT RISK OF HAVING COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES?

Medical diagnosis

Language / Social
/Cultural

Critical Care related



WHAT PUTS PEOPLE IN ICU AT RISK OF HAVING COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES?

- VISION / HEARING IMPAIRMENT
- NOT SHARING A COMMON LANGUAGE
- COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT
- LEARNING DIFFICULTY
- PRE EXISTING COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES
- NEGATIVE EMOTIONAL STATE
- COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT INCLUDING DELIRIUM
- ENDOTRACHEAL TUBES
- SEDATION
- TRACHEOSTOMY

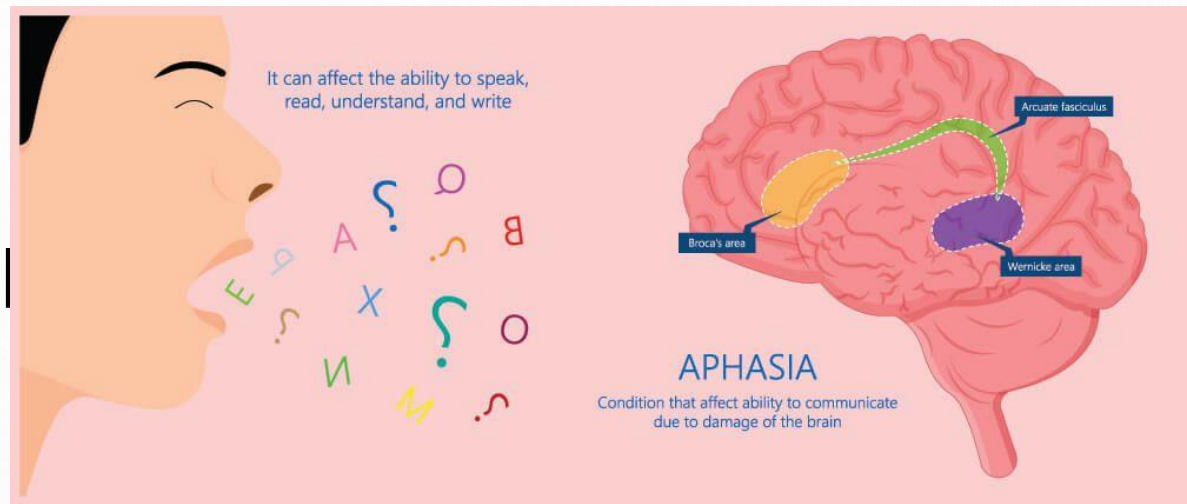
WHAT PUTS PEOPLE IN ICU AT RISK OF HAVING COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES?

- FATIGUE
- ICU ACQUIRED WEAKNESS
- NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT
- LACK OF TOOLS THAT CAN SUPPORT COMMUNICATION
- PAIN
- REQUIRING ADVANCED RESPIRATORY SUPPORT
- CULTURAL BARRIERS
- LACK OF COMMUNICATION SUPPORT TOOLS
- LACK OF ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the slide.

**COMMON TYPES OF
COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENTS
YOU MIGHT COME ACROSS ON ICU**

A



- SOMETIMES WRITTEN AS DYSPHASIA
- COMMON AFTER STROKE AND OTHER ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURIES AND OTHER CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE BRAIN SUCH AS DEMENTIA AND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.
- IT IS AN ACQUIRED LANGUAGE DISORDER
- CAN IMPACT VERBAL EXPRESSION, VERBAL COMPREHENSION, READING, WRITING AND USING AND UNDERSTANDING GESTURES / SIGN LANGUAGES
- CAN RANGE FROM A MILD TO PROFOUND LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY
- USUALLY AFFECTS ALL LANGUAGES KNOWN TO THE PERSON WITH APHAISA BUT THEY CAN BE AFFECTED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS
- [BROCA'S APHASIA \(NON-FLUENT APHASIA\) – YOUTUBE](#)
- [FLUENT APHASIA \(WERNICKE'S APHASIA\) - YOUTUBE](#)

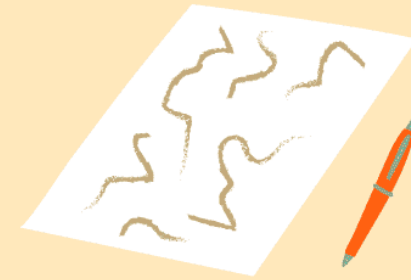
Symptoms of Aphasia



Trouble speaking clearly



Trouble understanding speech



Trouble writing clearly



Trouble understanding written words



Trouble remembering words



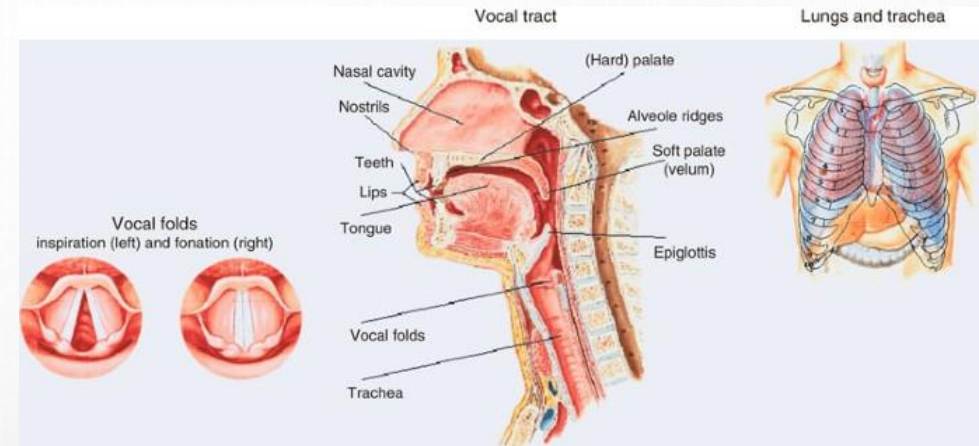
?????

Trouble remembering object names

A FEW TIPS FROM A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST...

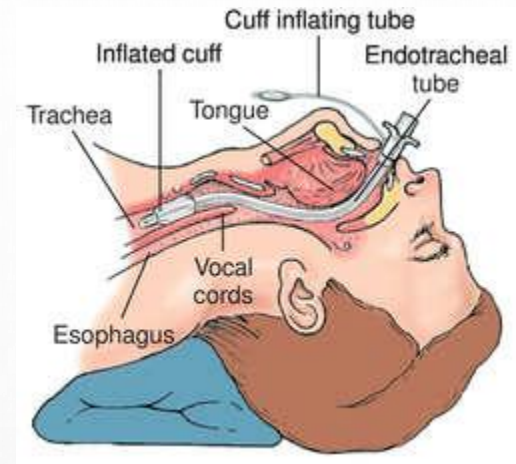
- ANY REQUIRED GLASSES AND HEARING AIDS SHOULD BE IN PLACE
- REMOVE DISTRACTING NOISES OR OBJECTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS A TV OR CLUTTERED TABLE TO MAKE COMMUNICATION EASIER
- YES AND NO RESPONSES CAN BE MIXED UP !
- SOME PEOPLE MAY TRY AND MASK THEIR DIFFICULTIES “NODDING AND SMILING ALONG” AND RESPONDING TO PEOPLE’S BODY LANGUAGE AND FACIAL EXPRESSION
- SOME PEOPLE DON’T KNOW THEY HAVE APHASIA AND THINK THEY ARE UNDERSTANDING AND TALKING WELL WHEN THEY ARE NOT (WHILE OTHER PEOPLE WITH APHASIA KNOW ONLY TOO WELL AND MAY FEEL FRUSTRATED AND EMBARRASSED)
- VISUAL COMMUNICATION CAN OFTEN BE RELATIVELY INTACT I.E. RECOGNISING PICTURES, OBJECTS, FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, BODY LANGUAGE. TONE OF VOICE CAN ALSO BE HELPFUL.

DYSARTHRIA



- SENSORI-MOTOR SPEECH DISORDER OFTEN SEEN AS “SLURRED SPEECH” IN MEDICAL NOTES.
- COMMON AFTER STROKE AND OTHER BRAIN INJURIES. ALSO SEEN IN MANY NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING PARKINSON’S DISEASE, MND AND DEMENTIA.
- IT CAN BE RELATED TO ICU RELATED WEAKNESS AND SEEN AFTER INTUBATION
- TRAUMA TO SPEECH STRUCTURES
- DENTURES ABSENT – IMPACTS ARTICULATION

DYSPHONIA



- VOICE DISORDER
- AGAIN CAN BE CAUSED BY MANY NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING BRAIN INJURY OR DAMAGE TO THE LARYNGEAL NERVES
- ALSO LARYNGEAL PATHOLOGIES SUCH AS CANCERS, TRAUMA AND POLYPS
- ASSOCIATED WITH POOR RESPIRATORY FUNCTION, COMMONLY SEEN AFTER ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE PLACEMENT.
- COMMONLY SEEN IN PATIENTS SUFFERING ICU RELATED WEAKNESS
- CAN RANGE FROM MILD ISSUE TO COMPLETE LOSS OF THE VOICE

VOICE AND SPEECH ISSUES CAN BE MADE WORSE BY

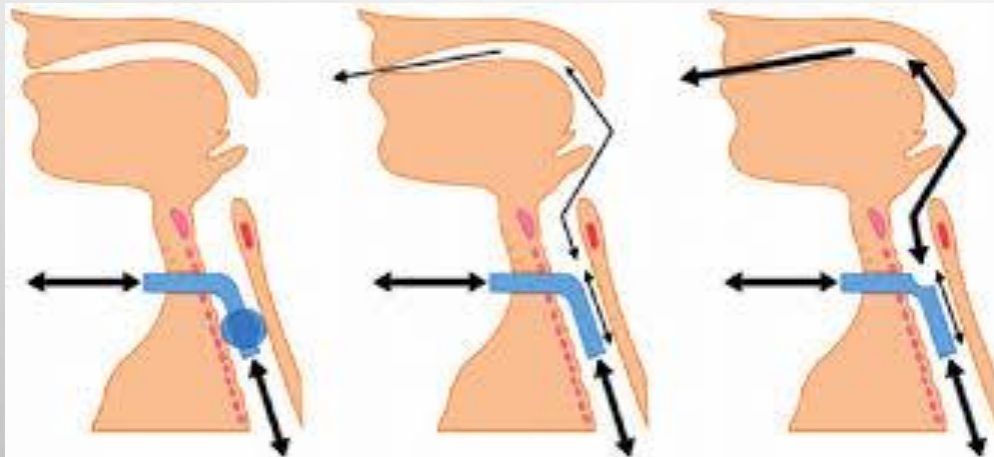
POOR ORAL CONDITION – ADDED BONUS OF MOUTH CARE IS IT CAN HELP SOMEONE TALK!



DRY MOUTH AND THROAT – DRIED MUCOSA IMPACTS THE SOUND SOMEONE CAN PRODUCE, ADDING MOISTURE CAN BE VIA SIPS OF WATER, SALIVA REPLACEMENT PRODUCTS OR NEBULISERS.

TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE RELATED COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENT

- PATIENT'S TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE WITH A CUFF INFLATED (LIKE PICTURE 1) WILL BE UNABLE TO USE THEIR VOICE



The person may use mouthing

COGNITIVE COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENT

- DELIRIUM
- BRAIN INJURY
- ICU SYNDROME – SOME SYMPTOMS MAY BE LONG TERM

CCI

- Talk too much or too little
- Only talk about themselves or their own interests
- Trouble starting or finishing conversation
- Goes off topic at random or unable to change topic
- Not able to reads social cues e.g. “I have to go now”
- Overly emotional or aggressive
- Saying things that are not true (but believing they are)
- Say things that others may find embarrassing or rude
- Not respecting personal boundaries
- Repeat the same information many times
- Have no insight into their difficulties or how their behaviour affects others
- Get tired or overwhelmed when having conversations

DELIRIUM: SOME
SYMPTOMS THAT
AFFECT
COMMUNICATION

Rapid incoherent speech

Passive not communicating / responding

Word substitutions errors

Not orientated to time, person or place

Heightened or depressed emotional states

Unlikely to be using speech strategies!

VIDEO CLIPS

- 1:30 – 1:49
- 2:40 – 4:48
- 9:15 – 11:00
- 12:21 – 13:50



A QUICK WORD ON HIGH TECH AAC

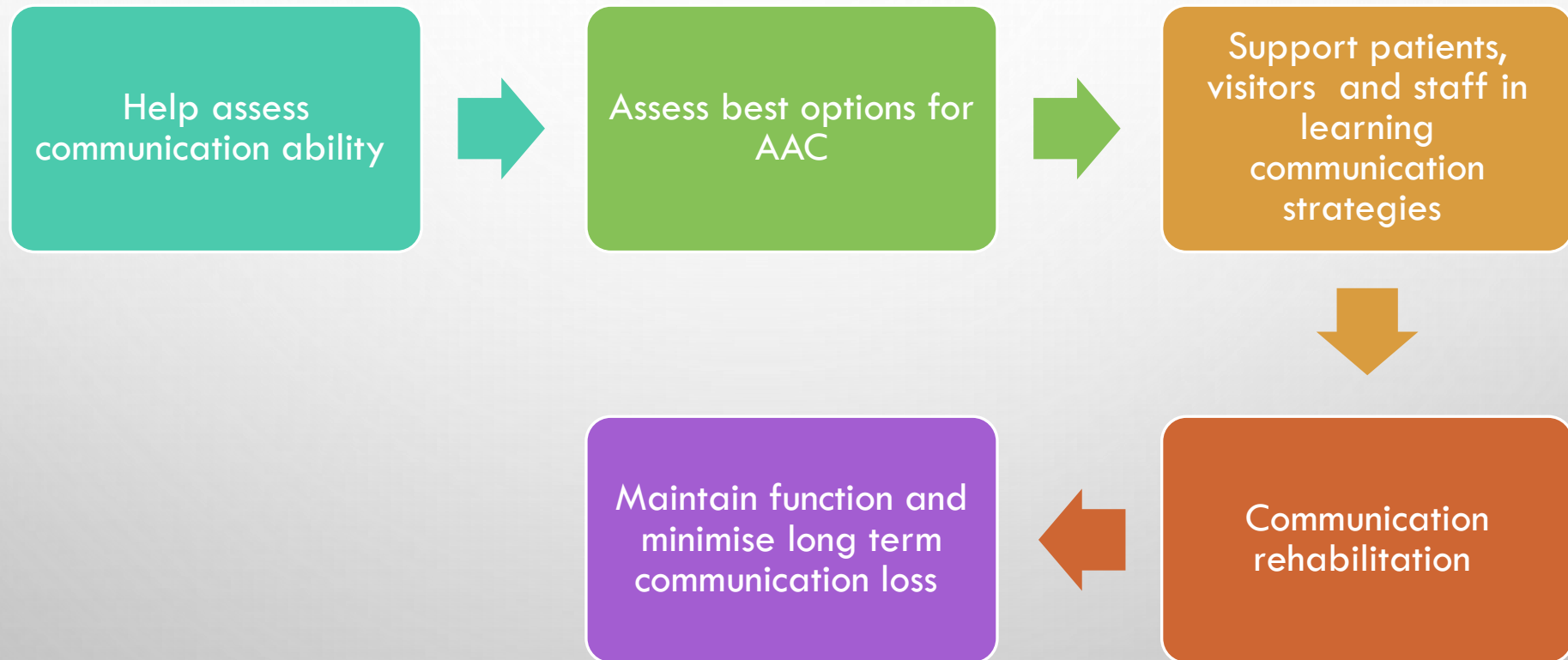
- YOU SAW AN EYE GAZE DEVICE ON THE VIDEO THAT WAS HIGH TECH
- WHILE THIS MAY BE HELPFUL FOR SOME PEOPLE, FOR EXAMPLE THOSE WITH LONG TERM PROFOUND MOTOR SKILLS LOSS, BUT INTACT COGNITION AND EYE MOVEMENT SUCH AS THOSE WITH SEVERE HIGH CERVICAL SPINAL CORD INJURIES OR SEVERE BRAINSTEM INJURY, THEY ARE COMPLICATED TO SET UP AND HARD TO LEARN HOW TO USE. SOMETIMES IT IS BEST TO START WITH MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD PAPER BASED OR PLASTIC EYE SCANNING CHARTS OR THE MEGABEE...

MEGABEE

- AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE TO USE WITH PATIENTS THAT ARE USING EYE SCANNING.
- THE MEGABEE IS AVAILABLE TO LEND TO PATIENTS ON THE UNIT . ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR FOR ACCESS.
- THEY ARE MEGABEE CHAMPIONS ON THE WARD OR ASK SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP TO USE THIS WITH YOUR PATIENT.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY CAN...



Messages: before placing referral - please check for active/current or long term health issues related to dysphagia or risk feeding

Relevant results

Health issues

Combined measurements

Height (inches)	Height (cm)	Weight (lb)	Weight (kg)	ESA	BMI
72	183	152	69	1.9	20.6

Diagnosis

Is patient major trauma

Is there a tracheostomy in situ

Assessment Required

Concerns about swallow/communication

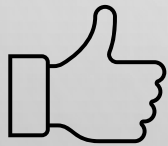
Observed swallowing difficulties with

Current Feeding Status

Document version 1.0

Buttons: Add, View, Item Info, Message, Drug Info, ER, Delete, Copy, Add Specimen, Indication, Mark as Done, OK, Cancel

REFERRALS FOR
COMMUNICATION
CAN BE PLACED ON
EPR. CLICK “ENTER
ORDER” AND
SEARCH FOR SPEECH
AND LANGUAGE
THERAPY



Speech and Language
Therapy can support you
and your patients with
communication needs.

WHILE YOU WAIT...

COMMUNICATION – HOW TO HELP YOUR PATIENT

TO HELP YOU AND YOUR PATIENT IN THE MEANTIME.

Styles

Communication – How to help your patient

	Cognitively intact and motor intact, e.g. respiratory patients	Cognitively intact and motor impaired, e.g. SCI, GBS, MND	Cognitively impaired and motor intact, e.g. ICU delirium, dementia, possibly TBI	Cognitively impaired and motor impaired, e.g. TBI, CVA
Easy (Low tech)	Mouthing	Call bell	Gesture	Yes/No questions Check reliability
	Writing – pen and paper or whiteboard	Eye gaze for yes/no	Pictorial or text-based communication boards	Establish consistent and meaningful method to respond Avoid blinking if at all possible
	Alphabet boards	Partner assisted scanning E tran frame i.e. basic needs or alphabet chart	Written choices	Simplified partner assisted scanning
	Basic needs chart – written list of words	Communication boards with orthotic aids or types of stylus	Simple speech generating devices e.g. basic needs Simple in design Limited in content Intuitive to use	Limited choice of 2 or 3 Pictures or objects to aid comprehension
Complex (High tech)	Fingerspelling, air writing or gesture	Complex speech generating devices – switch activated scanning		Modification of conversation partner to maximise and facilitate communication
	Electrolarynx Speech generating devices e.g. text to speech (SLT advice)	(SLT advice)	(SLT advice)	(SLT advice)

TOOLS THAT CAN SUPPORT COMMUNICATION

- **PEN AND PAPER / WHITE BOARDS**
- NON VERBAL COMMUNICATION
- OBJECTS OF REFERENCE
- LANGUAGE MODIFICATION
- PICTURES
- **SMART PHONES AND TABLETS INCLUDING ACCESSIBILITY SETTINGS AND APPS**
- TIMING
- DIARIES
- GOOD OBSERVATION SKILLS OF PATIENTS NON VERBAL COMMUNICATION
- COMMUNICATION CHARTS INCLUDING EYE GAZE
- **INTERPRETER SERVICES**
- ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT INCLUDING THE MEGABEE
- CUFF DOWN TRIALS WITH AND WITHOUT SPEAKING VALVES
- EYE GAZE MACHINES
- MOUTHING

Allergies



Page 6

Impairments and conditions

Do you have an impairment?



q w e r t y u i o p

a s d f g h j k l

z x c v b n m

1st letter is

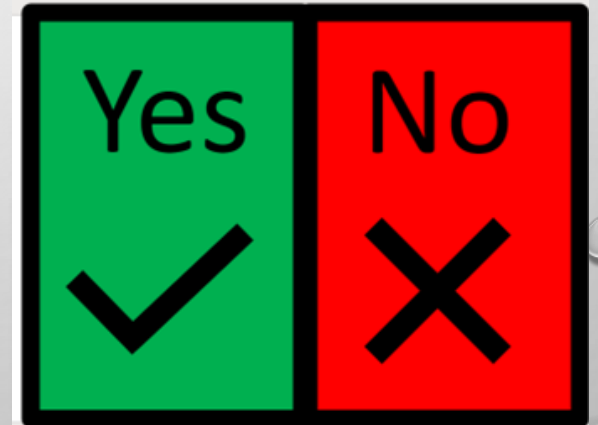
I'll start again

Do you understand?

You've misunderstood

Critical Care Communication Chart Turn over

yes	sip water	dry mouth	sore throat	cough	headache	feel sick
toilet	clean mouth	short of breath	can't breathe	feel hot	feel cold	uncomfortable
light on / off	lip salve	medication	allergic	suction mouth	tracheostomy	oxygen
adjust bed	0	1	2	3	4	5
no	6	7	8	9	10	very tired
						don't know



WHAT NEXT...

- I RECOMMEND WATCHING THE WHOLE OF THE TRAINING VIDEO ON AAC 17 MINUTES
- LEARN TO USE THE MEGABEE WITH A MEGABEE EXPERT USER

- WATCH THESE VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE:
- [DEMONSTRATION OF SPEAKBOOK: HOW IT WORKS - YOUTUBE](#)
- [MEGABEE - A SIMPLE COMMUNICATION DEVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THE ABILITY TO TALK - YOUTUBE](#)
- [BROCA'S APHASIA \(NON-FLUENT APHASIA\) – YOUTUBE](#)
- [FLUENT APHASIA \(WERNICKE'S APHASIA\) - YOUTUBE](#)
- [DYSARTHRIA DIFFICULTY WITH SPEAKING – YOUTUBE](#)
- LEARNING DISABILITY TEAM PAGE ON INTRANET "HOSPITAL COMMUNICATION BOOK"
- INTERPRETER SERVICES AT YOUR HOSPITAL

THANK YOU

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY TEAM:

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