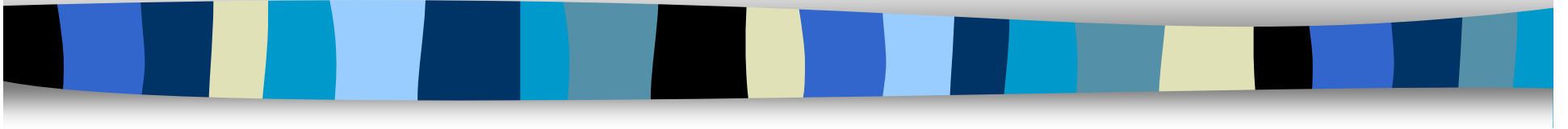


Communication Strategies for Aphasia





What is Aphasia?

- Impaired ability to communicate due to damage in the brain
 - Stroke
 - Head Injury
 - Tumors
 - Diseases



Aphasia

- Does not affect intellect
 - Processing problem
 - Getting info in and out



Aphasia can affect different areas of language

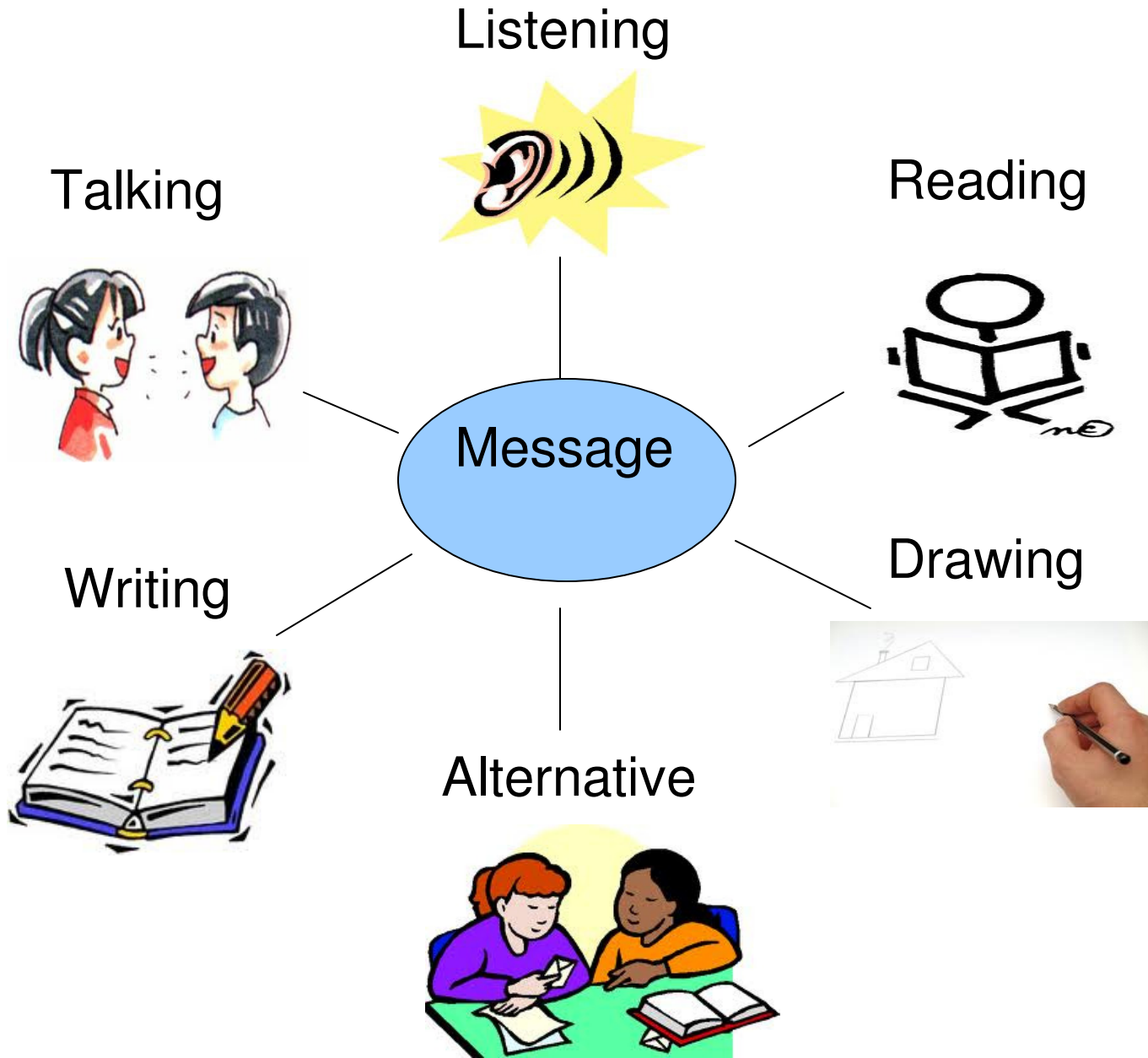
- Meaning
- Grammar
- Speech Sounds
- Words



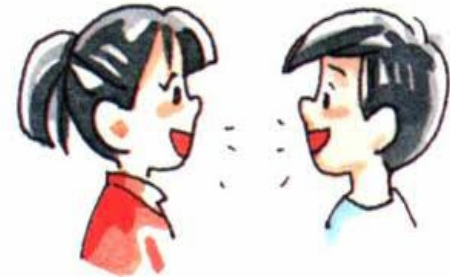
And Aphasia

- Can affect different modalities
 - Listening
 - Reading
 - Speaking
 - Writing
 - Gestures
 - Drawing

Communication Modalities



Communication Strategies for the Speaker



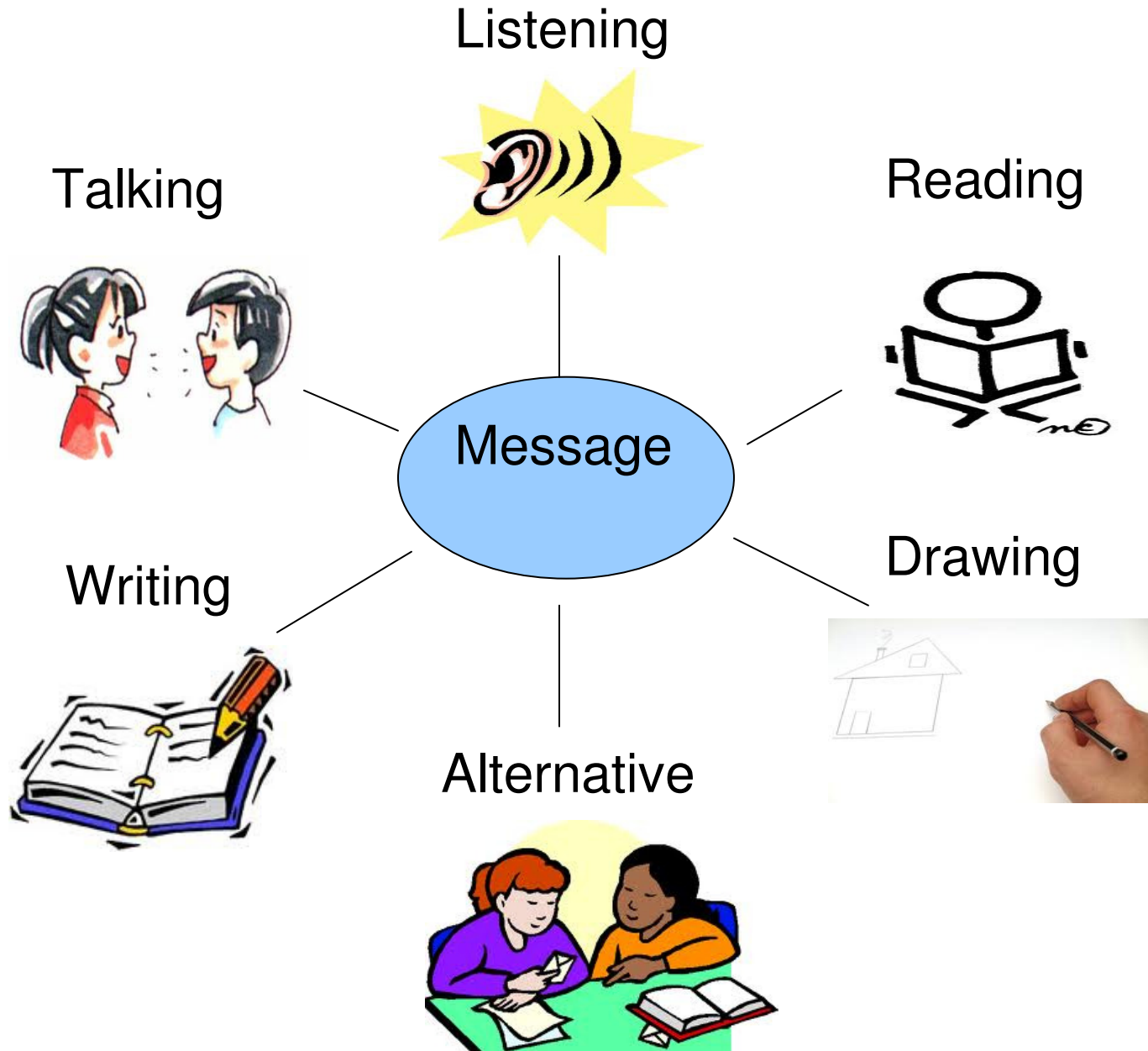
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Reduce background noise/clutter
- Look at person when talking
- Use natural voice and loudness
- Keep message simple
- Give time for person to process info
- Ask what helps

More Strategies for the Speaker

- Use pen and paper/ communication notebook
- Use facial expression
- Use gestures
- Write Key words
- Recap- check that you both understand



Different modes of Communication



Communication Strategies for the Listener



- Watch the Speaker
- Give plenty of time to respond
- Don't interrupt
- Remove distractions
- Be honest if don't understand
- Don't correct or speak for person



For the Listener

- Use communication notebook
- And other modes of communication
- Ask questions
- Follow the speaker's lead



When Presenting...

- Decrease distractions in room
- Speak clearly and slowly
- Try to include Key Words in PPTs
 - Or Student volunteers will write
- Use other modalities
 - Pictures/Visuals
 - Drawing



Finally...

- You Are Amazing!
- Have gone through life-changing event
- But still moving forward, growing, getting better
- You are inspiring and my heroes!
- Give yourselves a round of applause...





For More Information

- Talk with a Speech Pathologist
- Check out:
 - Supported Communication Intervention With Aphasia- ASHA website
- By Nancy Alarcon and Dr. Margaret Rodgers