

Aphasia Awareness Month

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About Me

- BS from UW, MSc from UBC
- SLP at ManorCare of Lacey
- Research on aphasia
- Experience with Aphasia
 - Aphasia Mentorship Program
 - Sea-to-Sky Aphasia Camp
 - Intensive Aphasia Program in Vancouver, BC
 - Young Adult Stroke Survivor Group

What is Aphasia?

- Language disorder that can affect
 - Speaking
 - Understanding
 - Reading and/or writing
- Caused by stroke, tumors, focal injuries
- Over 1 million Americans have aphasia

Types of Aphasia

- Expressive – trouble formulating language
- Receptive – trouble understanding language
- Global – trouble understanding and formulating language
- Conduction – trouble repeating language
- Anomic – trouble finding words

Common Affects of Aphasia

- Inability to work or participate in interests
- Social isolation
- Frustration
- Depression

Common Treatments of Aphasia

- Restorative
 - Language Drills
 - Complexity Approaches
 - Reading/writing exercises
- Compensatory
 - Gesture
 - Writing
 - Communication devices
- Caregiver Training

Does Aphasia Get Better?

- Many people recover: spontaneously, with hard work, or both
- Sometimes fast, sometimes slow
- Some people have severe aphasia forever
- Many things affect the outlook, but the person's ATTITUDE is most important!

Tips for Life with Aphasia

- Don't give up!
- Speak up!
 - Advocate for yourself and others.
- Reach out!
 - Connect with people with and without aphasia.
- Keep at it!
 - Pursue speech therapy and/or other language activities.

What's YOUR experience?

Resources

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA.org)
- National Aphasia Association (aphasia.org)
- Aphasia Institute (aphasia.ca)
- UW Speech and Hearing Clinic
(<http://depts.washington.edu/sphsc/clinicalservices/>)

Thank You!!!