

Progressive Aphasia and Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia: A guide for families

Mikaila Perrino & Amanda D. Foort
University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
Department of Social Sciences
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Resources available to clients and their families about progressive aphasia (PA) are often missing experiential information about living with aphasia. In order to bridge this gap, the authors paired emotionally charged imagery along with academic research to provide a holistic understanding of PA. Most resources available to families do not include emotional side effects. The essay emphasizes the importance of a realistic approach to a difficult outcome for those with PA. In order to respond to declining conversational skills, supported conversation for adults with aphasia (SCA) can act as a ramp between the family members. SCA is an excellent tool to enhance PA clients' communication; families need support to use it effectively at home. The authors designed the essay for distribution amongst Speech Language Pathologists and PA clients along with their families to encourage the use of SCA in the home. The featured SCA strategies are recommended for natural conversations outside the Speech Language Pathologist's office.

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Progressive Aphasia
&
Supported Conversation
for Adults with Aphasia

**MIKAILA & AMANDA
PERRINO & FOORT**



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Progressive aphasia is the gradual loss of language over time.

Progressive aphasia is not dementia or Alzheimer's disease even though the symptoms can be similar. Some

people can have both disorders at the same time. People with progressive aphasia only experience impairments that have to do with

language





People with progressive aphasia are battling a condition in which they will lose their ability to **Speak** **read** **write** and/or understand what they hear



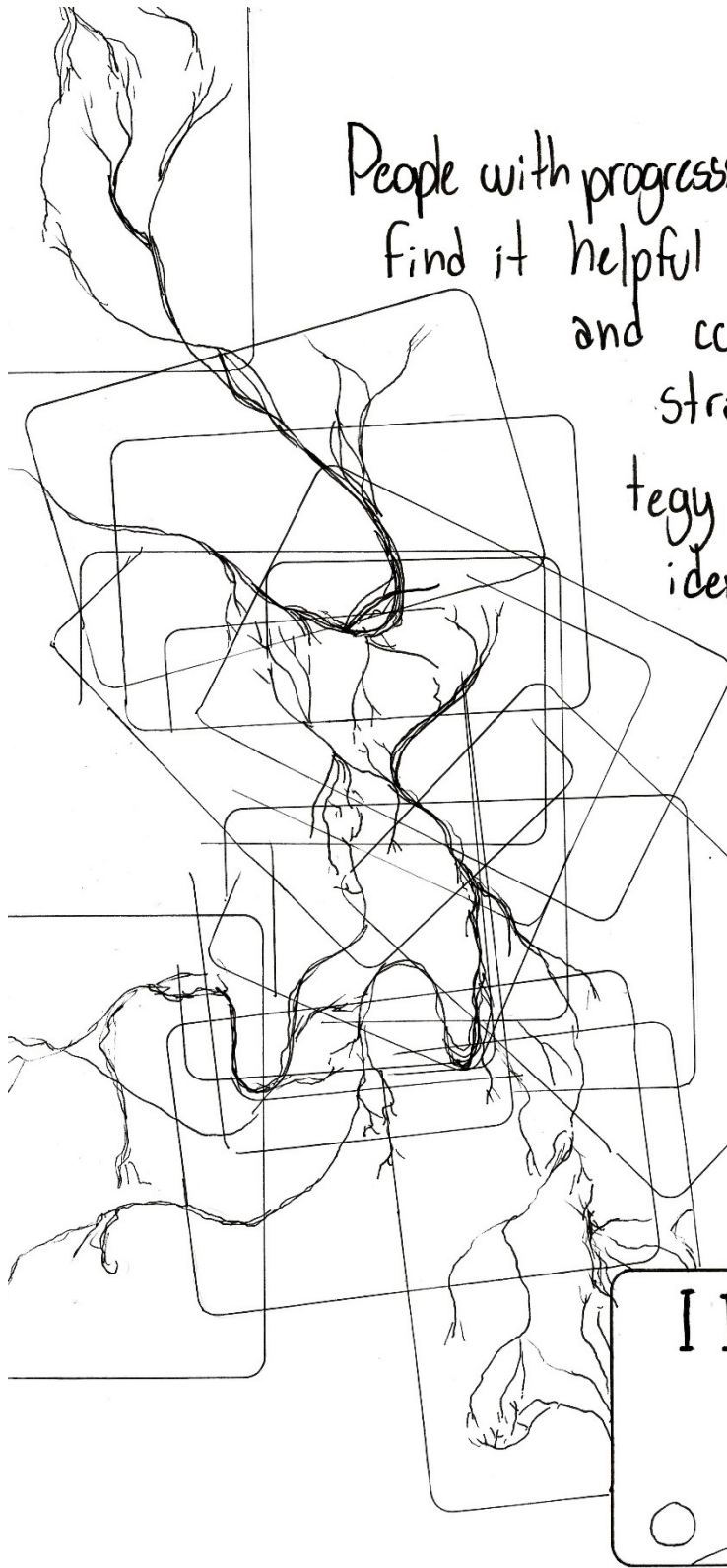
Progressive aphasia unfortunately does **not** improve with **treatment**. Eventually, almost all patients lose the ability to speak and unable to understand spoken or written language, even if their behaviour seems otherwise normal.

As patients continue to decline, they may become increasingly **frustrated** by their inability to communicate to other people

aphasia is smaller than you
it you'll be can go for
chicken is in the
I have to meet the
doctor's a sim
I think I like that
could show
I have to meet the
doctor's a sim
I think I like that



Oh yes, then...
just um... doc-doc
umm... the... doc



People with progressive aphasia may find it helpful to use support and communication strategies. One strategy is to carry identification

Cards and other materials that can explain the person's condition to others.

I have
progressive
aphasia

Aphasia is a big change that not only affects the aphasia survivor, but also their loved ones.

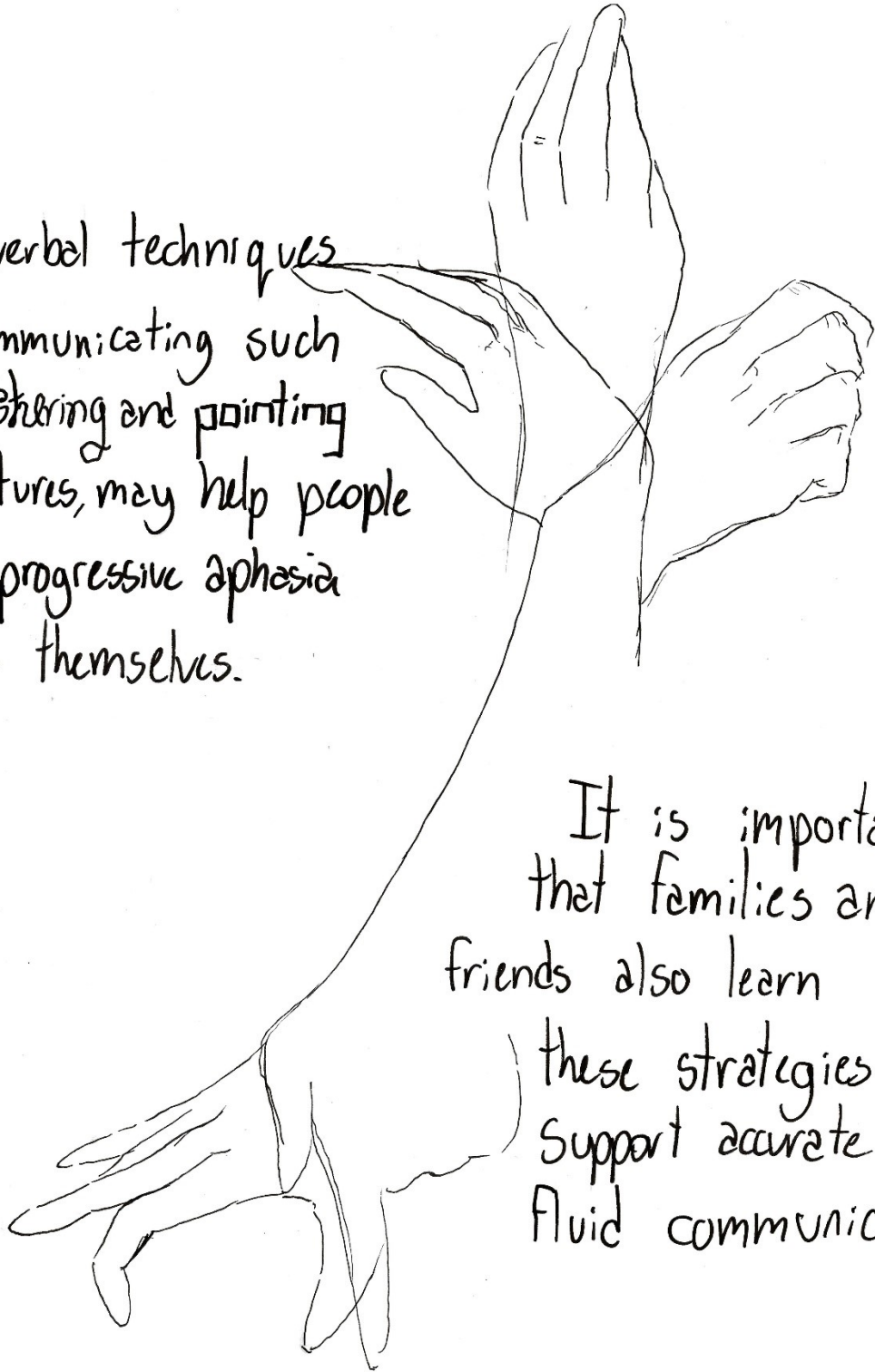


We build relationships through spoken words, and it's hard being a conversation with one person contributing.



Conversations are just as much about relationship building as about their information

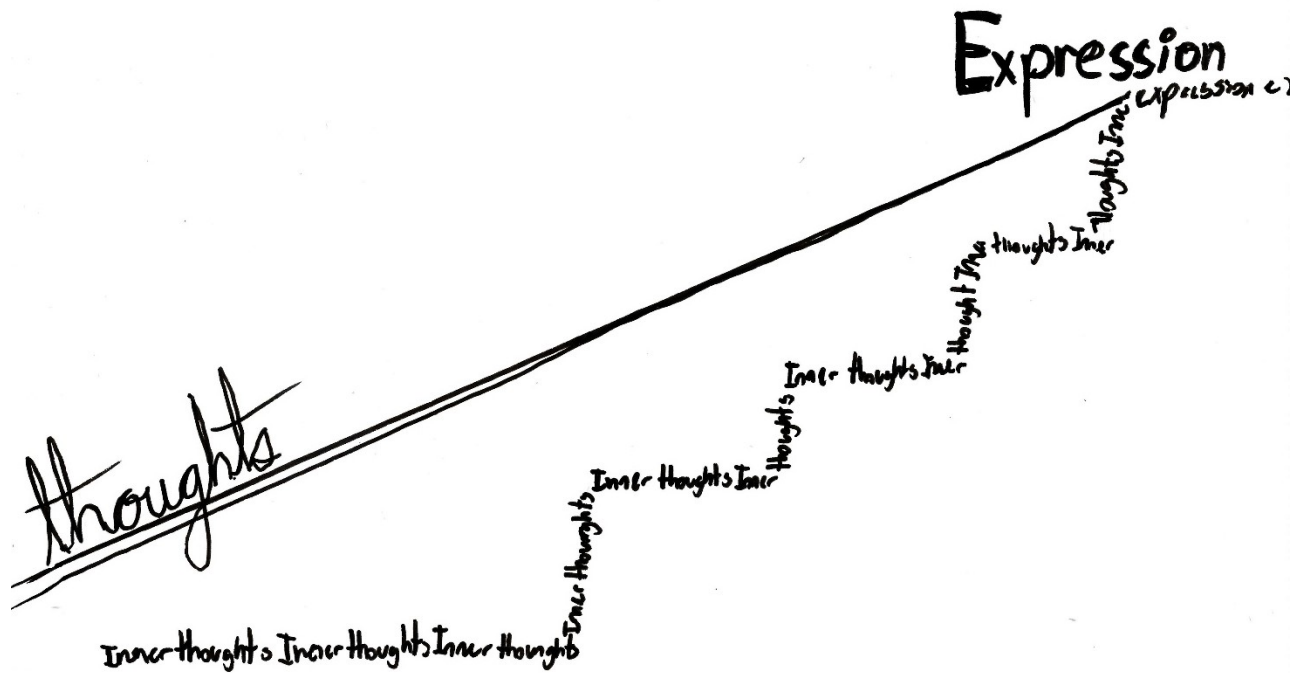
Non-verbal techniques
for communicating such
as gesturing and pointing
to pictures, may help people
with progressive aphasia
express themselves.



It is important
that families and
friends also learn
these strategies to
support accurate and
fluid communication

Supported conversation for adults with aphasia (SCA) is a communication ramp for people who know more than they can

say. Aphasia takes away a person's ability to express themselves easily, but that doesn't mean they don't have anything they want to say. Like a wheelchair ramp that helps mobility, SCA is a language ramp to help people with aphasia express their inner thoughts



The goal of SCA is to help communication in real life situations..

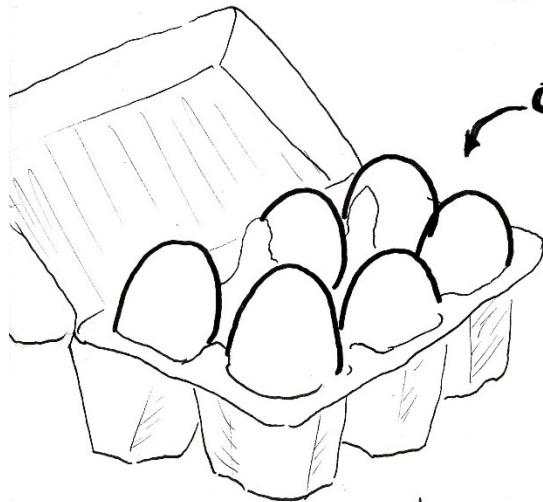
Mom, how can I get bigger tomatoes?

Could you write it down or...

I... er... Put the... thing... umm

SCA uses a variety of tools including:

Put eggshells in the dirt



writing

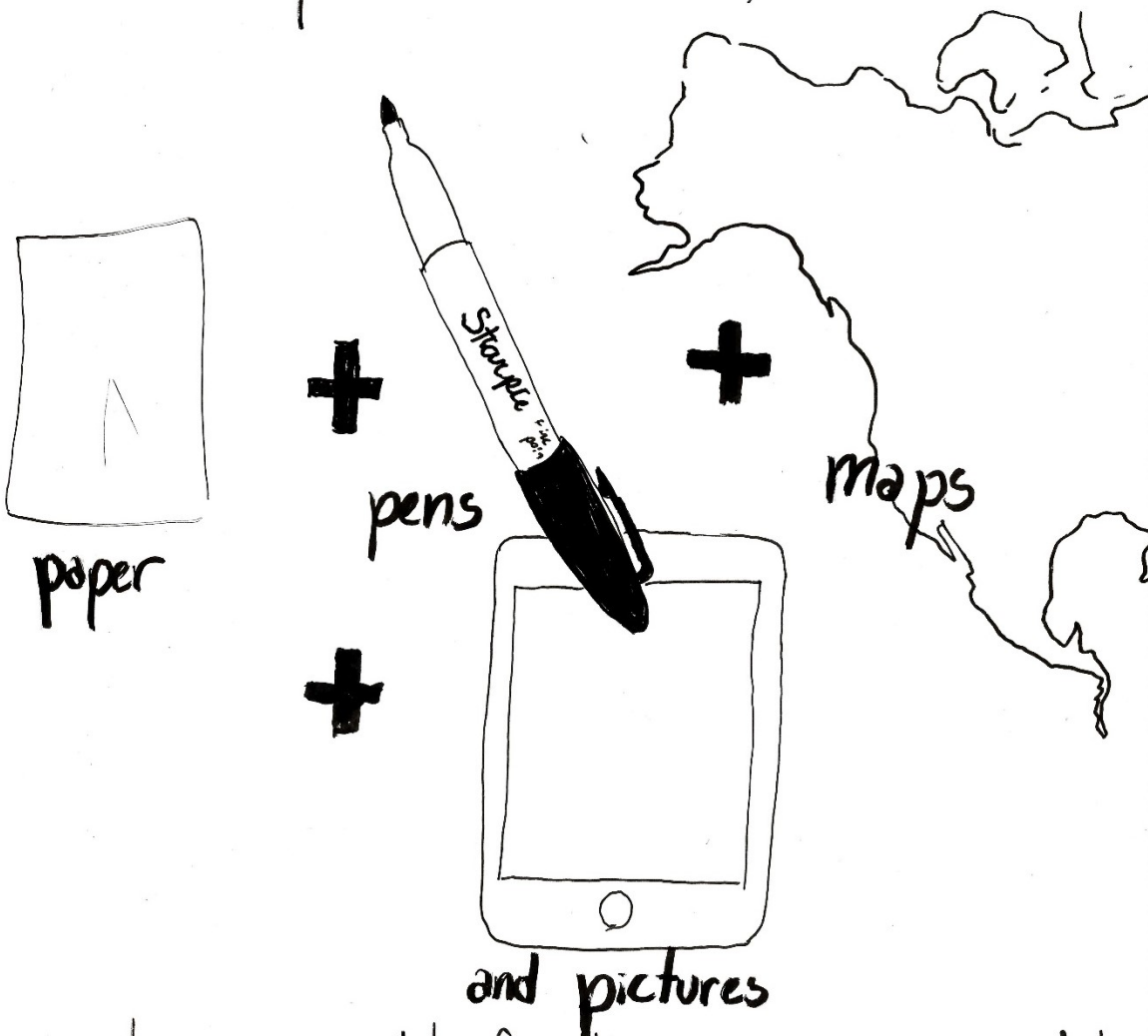
objects

drawings

... and whatever you can come up with!



To help the conversation, use...



to accommodate for this new conversation style

**WRITE DOWN YOUR OWN SPEECH TO
CLARIFY YOUR SENTENCES**

That way the person with aphasia can check what they heard/their comprehension.

Aphasia changes everyone's life including the family members! If the person with aphasia has the tools, they can actively participate in the conversations. SCA offers direct training that helps people with aphasia and their loved ones converse better.



Be creative, get resourceful, and have fun!