

Receptive Aphasia

Speech and Language Therapy Department



Patient information leaflet

This leaflet explains what aphasia is and provides information and advice for relatives and friends of people with aphasia.

What is Aphasia?

When someone has receptive aphasia (also known as receptive dysphasia) they may find it difficult to understand what people say. They may also struggle to read and understand written information.

You might notice your friend/relative:

- replying to the wrong question/ comment
- not knowing things you have told them before
- agreeing or disagreeing with everything
- misinterpreting or only picking up on half of what you say



What can I do to help someone with Aphasia?

There are some things you can do to help your friend/ relative understand more of what you say:

Imagine you were in a foreign country where you did not speak the language – what things would help you to understand?

- Find out which strategies help the person - everyone is different.
- Make eye contact and listen carefully.
- Try to keep conversation to the 'here and now'.
- Slow down, but use normal adult language and tone of voice.
- Use common, everyday words as opposed to less familiar ones.
- Say one thing at a time, pausing in between.
- Make it clear when you change topic.
- Use non-verbal communication to support what you say (i.e. gesture, drawing, pointing, writing down key words).
- Ask questions to check that you have been understood.
- Re-phrase things if not understood.

Speech and Language Therapists can give specific strategies or exercises to help your relative/friend. Please see contact details overleaf.

Reference sources

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/aphasia/>
- <https://www.stroke.org.uk/what-is-stroke/what-is-aphasia/aphasia-and-its-effects>
- <https://www.headway.org.uk/about-brain-injury/individuals/effects-of-brain-injury/communication-problems/language-impairment-aphasia/>

Contact details

Please contact the Speech and Language Therapy department if you have any questions or concerns:

Telephone: 01483 571122 **ext** 4680

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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