



AAC Resource for Individuals with Aphasia



CAYA 2014 – Tessa Lowis, Michelle Bunney, Tiffany Visser, Tara Commandeur, Monica Francella

This document is based on the AAC Aphasia Category framework by Garrett and Lasker (2005). The framework differentiates between two types of communicators with Aphasia:

1. **Independent communicators:** individuals who are able to *independently initiate* use of different communication strategies.
2. **Partner Dependent communicators:** Individuals who *consistently depend on a partner* to manage informational demands and provide communication choices within highly familiar contexts.

We need to ask 5 Assessment questions to determine which category best describes the client:

1. Does the person with Aphasia (PWA) use unaided communication strategies (e.g., gestures, writing drawing)? If so, with what degree of cueing?
2. Are partner dependent strategies being used? (e.g. partner writing key words, providing choice of responses)
3. Can the PWA use external stored information/messages (i.e. messages that don't talk on a communication board)?

The *Multi-Modal Communication Screening Task for Persons with Aphasia* can be used to assess this skill, available for free at <http://aac.unl.edu/screen/picture.pdf>

4. Can the PWA access stored messages on a speech generating device?

'Aphasia -Stored Message Assessment' pages available in TouchChat through iShare: Go to Public Files > Adult > General Communication > Aphasia-Stored Message Assessment.

5. Can the PWA formulate/generate messages to communicate?

These questions may be answered by observing the PWA and a partner in role play situations.

Please use the checklist below to assist you in assessing and providing AAC intervention for your clients with Aphasia.

PARTNER DEPENDENT COMMUNICATORS						
Communicator Type	Skills	Challenges	Target Skill required for AAC	Assessment Ideas	Therapy ideas	AAC Options – low tech / high tech
Emerging Communicator	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased attentiveness to tangible objects (e.g., clothing), personal photos, or reminiscence items <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging ability to demonstrate (nonverbal) acceptance or rejection of a tangible choice <input type="checkbox"/> Looks up when greeted <input type="checkbox"/> Takes objects and returns them to command within familiar routines	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor comprehension without visual or personal context <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent or nonexistent signal for “yes” or “no” <input type="checkbox"/> May demonstrate emerging awareness of daily routine, but is easily confused by changes in the routine or new events <input type="checkbox"/> No functional speech or gestures	EXPRESSIVE (*Multimodal) <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to use gestures <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to draw <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to point to an object / photo /symbol given an array of choices to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a choice • direct care • answer question • assist with identifying direction of conversation (topic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BDAE -3: Praxis subtest</i> • Informal – E.g., draw common objects, faces, etc. • Object / photo/ symbol selection given a verbal cue for a target picture / symbol • Select a target object / photo/ symbol to answer a question • Select a target object / photo/ symbol to complete a carrier phrase (spoken / written) <i>E.g. MCST-A: Section A</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target those skills required for AAC at this level to maximize life participation. E.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish reliable yes/no response: learn to communicate affirmation with a head nod and refusal with a head shake • to choose pictured items in the context of a functional activity (e.g. choosing items in grooming routine) 2. Communicate affirmation and refusal (e.g. head nod/shake), symbols to represent affirmation and refusal) 3. Modeling yes/no responses – gestural responses (eg. Head nod/shake) in supported conversation **training partners is key 4. Focus on <i>Partner Assisted Communication / Supported Conversation Training</i> 5. Increase attention to visual supports (e.g. cards, tic tac toe) 6. Conversational Group 7. Functional role plays to practice using the low tech solutions set up to support Partner Assisted Communication. 8. Conversation scripts, E.g., greeting and response sequence 9. Games to target turn taking 10. Practice copying/ writing the names of objects (<i>select objects that will be used on a daily basis and can be used to assist with directing care etc</i>) 	Low-Tech – Supported Communication Approach Augmented partner input (with training) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gestures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written key words <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings Specific context supports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Premade pages for the partner to use for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choice of activities ▪ Directing personal and medical care ▪ Participation in games ▪ Writing letters ▪ Financial management ▪ Etc. Family scrapbook / visual scenes (low tech / high tech) to assist with retelling of family events Simple conversational scripts using modality available to client (e.g. personal photos, gestures, eye gaze) Mid to High-Tech AAC None Recommended
			RECEPTIVE (*Multimodal) <input type="checkbox"/> Reliability of yes / no <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thumbs up/down • pointing to written cues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes /No questions using personally relevant or context bound questions 		
			READING / WRITING <input type="checkbox"/> Word recognition an asset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture word matching 		
			SYMBOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess ability to associate meaning with objects, photos, picture symbols 		
			PRAGMATIC <input type="checkbox"/> Scripts for Social situations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greetings • Responses • Carrier phrases with a choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess ability to take turn in conversation • Eye contact 		
			LINGUISTIC OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess ability to attend to stimuli presented, recall information with repeated teaching through informal observation 		
			COGNITIVE COMPONENT <input type="checkbox"/> Attends to Environmental supports provided by partner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written supports, pictorial cues, gesture cues, object cues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they respond to environmental supports E.g., use of photos illustrating communication locations and activities for scheduling 		

PARTNER DEPENDENT COMMUNICATORS						
Communicator Type	Skills	Challenges	Target Skill required for AAC	Assessment Ideas	Therapy ideas	AAC Options – low tech / high tech
Contextual Choice Communicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some attempts to communicate via natural modalities <input type="checkbox"/> Can clearly indicate an answer or preference by pointing to a choice of objects, pictures, or large print written words <input type="checkbox"/> Can participate in multi-turn conversations given partner supported strategies (written choice, tagged yes-no questions, augmented comprehension) <input type="checkbox"/> Confirms or selects topics of interest <input type="checkbox"/> Clearly aware of daily routine (e.g., tries to get shoes on before therapy) <input type="checkbox"/> Augmented partner input and support enhances comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Speech or gestures are minimally comprehensible <input type="checkbox"/> Generate little information on their own <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom initiates, even by pointing or vocalizing <input type="checkbox"/> Poor comprehension of decontextual auditory information (e.g., commands, questions that do not pertain to events in the present and/or personally relevant information) 	EXPRESSIVE (*Multimodal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to indicate a choice by pointing if visually presented, <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to indicate a choice with gesture / vocalization if presented auditorily <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to point to a word given a list of choices to make a choice /direct care/answer question/assist with identifying direction of conversation (topic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a target word given verbal cue • Select a target word to answer a question given a choice of 3-4 words • Select a target word to complete a carrier phrase (spoken or written) • Informal observation • <i>MCST-A, response to written choice technique</i> • <i>BDAE – 3, WAB, informal observations</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teach key partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To use augmented input strategies when needed ✓ Respond to all communication modes and interpret communication attempts ✓ Use tagged yes/no questions ✓ To use written choice conversation strategy 2. Teach communicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ to reference their topic by pointing, gesture ✓ Turn taking in conversation with gestures, written key words, drawings and a list of choices ✓ meaning of graphic symbols ✓ reliable yes/no response (gesture, pointing, verbal) ✓ how to indicate choice in response to questions ✓ to initiate/ask questions by pointing or through verbalizations, gestures ✓ To visually attend to partner’s augmented input ✓ To confirm whether message understood ✓ To show new partners any instruction cards provided 3. Identify preferred/familiar topics 4. Identify key partners , and assess current conversational supports used by key partners 5. Target conversational exchange (greetings), sharing personal and biographical information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Teach client to initiate communication 6. Anticipation shelves (calendar boxes), communicator learns to associate an object with an activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sort objects or pictures cards into different buckets/piles (animals, foods, transportation, etc) 7. Category Therapy App 	Low-Tech – Supported Communication Approach <p>Augmented partner input (with training)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gestures ✓ Written key words ✓ Drawings <p>Notebooks for use in supported interactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strategies: Written choice, rating scales to communicate opinion, preferences, and qualitative responses and augmented partner input ✓ Instruction card for notebook cover describing strategies <p>Family scrapbook / visual scenes (low tech / high tech) to assist with retelling of family events</p> <p>Remnant Communication book containing personally relevant information, photos, mementos</p> <p>Premade pages for the partner to use for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Social etiquette phrases ✓ Choice of activities ✓ Directing personal / medical care ✓ Participation in games ✓ Writing letters ✓ Financial management ✓ Etc. <p>Mid to High-Tech</p> <p>Single message button, step-by-step for greetings, introductions</p> <p>iPad: Supported use of Communication Apps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TouchChat app with customized/simplified page set ✓ Sounding Board app
			RECEPTIVE (*Multimodal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehension of written words, picture or other visual symbols in shared context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess ability to answer personally relevant yes/no questions • Assess ability to provide response when written choice technique used • <i>BDAE-3, MCST-A, RCBA</i> 		
			READING / WRITING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize a word in context <input type="checkbox"/> Read at the word or phrase level in context <input type="checkbox"/> Identify the first letter of a word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess ability to match pictures to words, and understand written words/phrases in context • Assess ability to spell for communication • First letter of keyword / word / phrase 		
			SYMBOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Understands a symbol can represent a word or concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess symbolic ability - what level of representation client can use (i.e. objects, photos, picture symbols, text) • <i>TASP, MCST-A, subtests from the BDAE-3, WAB, AAC Evaluation Genie</i> 		
			PRAGMATIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Social competence - Initiating conversation <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to confirm comprehension or signal lack of comprehension through gesture or verbalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal observation • Assess informally in conversation; role play breakdowns and repair sequences 		
			LINGUISTIC OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to locate vocabulary in communication book and/or level of support required with navigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess ability to categorize vocabulary (ex. TASP –Categorization Subtest, AAC Evaluation Genie, MCST-A) 		
			COGNITIVE COMPONENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness of daily routines and schedules <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to navigate between pages in a system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess informally (e.g. family interview) 		

PARTNER DEPENDENT COMMUNICATORS						
Communicator Type	Skills	Challenges	Target Skill required for AAC	Assessment Ideas	Therapy ideas	AAC Options – low tech / high tech
Transitional Communicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can access holophrastic messages on a board or device with cues <input type="checkbox"/> Can shift modalities with cues <input type="checkbox"/> Can initiate a partial message on occasion and in specific contexts, but requires support to communicate a complete message <input type="checkbox"/> Can request by pointing or vocalizing <input type="checkbox"/> Can greet or produce gestural or spoken word responses in automatic social conversation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Requires constant cueing to think to access stored messages <input type="checkbox"/> Requires constant cueing to use alternate modes of communication <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to repair conversation breakdowns independently <input type="checkbox"/> Does not initiate questions, but may initiate requests for physical needs or comment without cues <input type="checkbox"/> Uses mostly automatic speech, if any 	EXPRESSIVE (*Multimodal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to respond to questions by gesture/symbols/text <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to categorize personally relevant information <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to link two items with a model (noun + verb or noun+ adjective) <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to use a higher level of response to yes / no questions (i.e., something else / you are on the right track / you are on the wrong track) <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to point to / write the first letter of a word for first letter cueing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to categorize • Determine word class ability (noun, verb etc) • Picture Description tasks that range in complexity from N+V, N + Adj, Prep +N, V+O, N+V+O, done with different supports/devices wrong?" pictures, picture description within barrier task • Assess ability to identify letters, and recognize common sight words • WAB, "What's wrong picture?" • TASP, AAC Genie 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group language therapy (context-based 'world' news/social chat) with access to various AAC supports 2. Partner training- Partner Assisted Communication (with focus on modeling/cueing with visual supports) 3. Conversational turns (basic level script training?) 4. ORLA (introductory level) 5. Possibly Constraint Induced Language Therapy (e.g., produce S + V or V + O with cueing) 6. Practice 'sentences' using communication board or book – modeling support 7. Introduce self with low or high tech AAC strategy 8. Practice answering predictable questions (e.g. autobiographical, topical) by searching for and selecting prestored messages on a Speech Generating Device (SGD) 9. Practice telling simple stories by activating sequential messages on an SGD. 	<p>Low-Tech – Supported Communication Approach</p> <p>Wallet communication book organized categorically but with less vocabulary than a book</p> <p>Introduction card</p> <p>Communication book with or without basic Core Vocab; categorically organized</p> <p>Communication board with single symbol to convey a whole message</p> <p>Tangible topic setters (objects, photos, remnants)</p> <p>Mid to High-Tech</p> <p>Static displays: Tech Talk, Go Talk 9, Bluebird</p> <p>iPad/tablet: Supported use of Communication Apps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TouchChat : 'Aphasia – GF Strong & CAYA' pageset Available for free through iShare - Public Folders – Adult- General Communication ✓ TouchChat app w/ Multichat 15 ✓ TouchChat app w/ Wordpower 20 ✓ Sounding board app ✓ Talk Rocket app <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Customize/simplify lay-outs so that there are not too many levels/pages
			RECEPTIVE (*Multimodal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehend basic verbal and/or written information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditory comprehension of sentences with and without visual cue • Ability to follow 1-3 step directions • Ability to identify time and use functionally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Day of the week /Time of day/Season ○ Yesterday / today / tomorrow • Ability to direct finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify word/symbol/photo for specific bank, cheque book, money 		
			READING / WRITING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize personally relevant text <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to write a single word to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct care • answer question • assist with identifying direction of conversation (topic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading comprehension – picture/word matching, phrase/picture matching, sight words • Ability to copy/write/type the names of objects (<i>select objects that will be used on a daily basis and can be used to assist with directing care etc</i>) • WAB, APAR, CADL 		
			SYMBOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize personally relevant symbols /photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine visual discrimination in a field of 2, 4, 6 + • TASP, AAC Evaluation Genie or informally, with symbols or other visual supports 		
			PRAGMATIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Signal communication partner to initiate communication <input type="checkbox"/> Signal a communication breakdown <input type="checkbox"/> Take turns in conversation <input type="checkbox"/> Shift modalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 		
			LINGUISTIC OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working memory <input type="checkbox"/> Level of cueing required (phonemic, word lists, drawing, gesture, symbols) <input type="checkbox"/> Navigation ability - Number of levels on a display 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 		
			COGNITIVE COMPONENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Attention/ Memory/ Sequencing/ Social Communication 		

Independent Communicators						
Communicator Type	Skills	Challenges	Target Skill required for AAC	Assessment Ideas	Therapy ideas	AAC Options – low tech / high tech
Stored Message Communicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiates communication without support <input type="checkbox"/> Independently locates messages that have been stored in advance by others <input type="checkbox"/> May occasionally produce meaningful spoken words or phrases, <input type="checkbox"/> May occasionally communicate portions of ideas by writing or using symbolic gestures <input type="checkbox"/> Aware of communication breakdowns but unable to repair successfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> May require support to effectively complete a communication message <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to utilize alternate modalities to augment unintelligible speech are not always effective <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to clarify or elaborate stored messages are usually unsuccessful <input type="checkbox"/> Cannot independently spell or combine words to generate novel messages 	EXPRESSIVE (*Multimodal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicative intent (motivation to communicate a message) <input type="checkbox"/> Compositional ability <input type="checkbox"/> Categorization ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can they combine 2-3 symbols with support? • Informal observation (are they motivated to communicate?) • <i>TASP, AAC Evaluation Genie</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORLA (transition to phrase and sentence level). May be able to manage 'homework' 2. Constraint Induced Language Therapy (e.g., S + V + O) 3. Practice sentences with visual supports in the form of text or symbols 4. Conversational scripts (personally relevant, contextually rich vocabulary to support utilization). Use communication book/board/system to assist (with cueing) 5. Response Elaboration Training (ERT) 6. Melodic Intonation Training (MIT) 7. Communication Group 	<p>Low-Tech</p> <p>Communication book/board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ with or without Core Vocabulary to work on sentence composition ✓ categorically organized pages with symbols and a label/phrase <p>Wallet-communication book with key vocab for daily contexts</p> <p>Mid to High-Tech</p> <p>Static displays i.e. Tech Talk, Go Talk 9, Bluebird</p> <p>iPad/tablet: Supported use of Communication Apps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TouchChat : 'Aphasia – GF Strong & CAYA' pageset Available for free through iShare - Public Folders – Adult- General Communication ✓ TouchChat app w/ Multichat 15 ✓ TouchChat app w/ Wordpower 20-42 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Customize/simplify lay-outs so that there are not too many levels/pages <p>Lingraphica speech generating devices http://www.aphasia.com/products/lingraphica-speech-generating-devices</p> <p>Dynavox Compass - Stroke and Brain Injury Persona pageset: http://www.mynavox.com/DynaVoxCompass#StrokeAndBrainInjurySolution</p>
			RECEPTIVE (*Multimodal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehension of verbal information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informally: following commands, following a conversation • <i>WAB, TASP (understanding directions)</i> 		
			READING/ WRITING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to read at the word /phrase / sentence level <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to supplement message with writing occasionally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Reading Comprehension : complexity, comprehension of text with/without a symbol • phrase/sentence-word matching 		
			SYMBOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Symbolic knowledge – size, word classes (nouns, verbs, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informally, with symbols or other visual supports • Determine how many symbols/words the client can manage per page (e.g., 6, 8, 12, 24 +) • <i>TASP, AAC Evaluation Genie</i> 		
			PRAGMATICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Signal topic of conversation <input type="checkbox"/> Signal communication breakdown and need for assistance to repair it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 		
			LINGUISTIC OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to locate stored phrases (in the appropriate category) <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to navigate levels of a device (2/3 levels) <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to navigate a communication book (through colour coding or words /symbols on tabs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to learn and remember navigational patterns to find stored phrases 		
			COGNITIVE COMPONENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Attention/ Memory/ Sequencing/ Social Communication 		

Independent Communicators						
Communicator Type	Skills	Challenges	Target Skill required for AAC	Assessment Ideas	Therapy ideas	AAC Options – low tech / high tech
Generative Message Communicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Independently combines a variety of modalities and/or message components to create new messages <input type="checkbox"/> Independently navigates to multiple locations in a communication system to retrieve appropriate messages <input type="checkbox"/> May utilize several steps to produce a single message (e.g., symbol sequences, word prediction, spells series of letters) <input type="checkbox"/> Uses stored messages independently in predictable situations when rapid communication is needed <input type="checkbox"/> Can sometimes communicate by drawing schematics, maps, objects <input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes errors and breakdowns and is sometimes successful at repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> May require training to learn when to use AAC strategies effectively <input type="checkbox"/> May require more time to complete communication attempts <input type="checkbox"/> May require training on the use of voice-output device or other symbolic communication mode <input type="checkbox"/> Communication breakdowns continue in highly demanding or unfamiliar communication contexts 	EXPRESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to code-switch between modalities, and use a variety of means to get message across 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal: ability to communicate in unexpected situations • WAB: <i>Spontaneous Speech/AAC use</i> • WAB: <i>Picture Description task</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role play demanding situation for communication 2. Practice using AAC in real-life contexts, with a new person or new situation 3. Role play – the communication partner purposely sabotages the conversation to create a breakdown. 4. Teach skills for repair: request for repetition, rephrasing, addition of context/gestures. 5. Identifying correct vs incorrect sentence structure (verbally? using device?) 	<p>Low-Tech</p> <p>Tabulated communication book with core and fringe vocabulary</p> <p>PODD-36 or 48 (Modified for adults)</p> <p>Mid to High-tech:</p> <p>iPad/tablet: Supported use of Communication Apps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TouchChat : ‘Aphasia – GF Strong & CAYA’ pageset Available for free through iShare - Public Folders – Adult- General Communication ✓ TouchCHat w/ MultiChat 15 ✓ TouchCHat w/ Wordpower20+ ✓ TouchCHat w/ iEssence ✓ Predictable App ✓ Verbally App <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Customize/simplify lay-outs so that there are not too many levels/pages <p>Lingraphica speech generating devices http://www.aphasia.com/products/lingraphica-speech-generating-devices</p> <p>Dynavox Compass - Stroke and Brain Injury Persona pageset: http://www.mynavox.com/DynaVoxCompass#StrokeAndBrainInjurySolution</p>
			COMPREHENSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to understand conversation between 2+ people, <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to understand questions that are out of context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal: ability to follow conversation in small group • WAB: <i>Auditory Verbal Comprehension</i> • WAB: <i>Sequential Commands</i> 		
			READING / WRITING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize items through whole-word or phonological strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAR: phonological or whole-word reader 		
			PRAGMATICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating in unfamiliar or stressful situations <input type="checkbox"/> Reliable recognition of breakdowns and repair of breakdowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal: observe ability to recognize/repair breakdowns 		
			SYMBOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Able to use variety of symbol types/sizes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal: Able to identify new symbols on a display • TASP: <i>Symbolic level</i> 		
			LINGUISTIC OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to navigate multi-level layout <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to link 5+ items independently <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to link items in grammatical order, but not necessarily including grammatical morphemes <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to use categories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Informal: Picture Description task (N+ V+O, Adj + N+V etc) <input type="checkbox"/> TASP: <i>Sentence Construction</i> <input type="checkbox"/> AAC Genie: <i>Picture Description</i> <input type="checkbox"/> MCTS-A 		
			COGNITIVE COMPONENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Attention/ Memory/ Sequencing/ Social Communication 		

Independent Communicators						
Communicator Type	Skills	Challenges	Target Skill required for AAC	Assessment Ideas	Therapy ideas	AAC Options – low tech / high tech
Specific Need Communicator	<input type="checkbox"/> Has indicated a need to perform a specific communication task more efficiently <input type="checkbox"/> In specific contexts or life situations, selectively uses AAC systems/strategies to communicate messages <input type="checkbox"/> May fall into either independent or dependent classifications	<input type="checkbox"/> May require emotional and linguistic support to participate fully in unfamiliar situations as a communicator with aphasia	EXPRESSION <input type="checkbox"/> Manages communication effectively in most situations using speech/gestures/writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific desired participation context/communication need Assess requirements of specific communication task and communicator's ability to manage 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific situations and specific messages. Develop a script for that situation. If unable to verbalize the script move to a basic stored message device. Identify level of cueing needed Teach use of tool/strategy for specific context through role play Provide opportunities to use the AAC system developed for each specific component. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice with situational questions and role play for the specific situation Accompany to the specific situation to model / cue. Identify key partners who can assist with identifying specific needs and developing message inventory Involve partner for support if needed 	<p>Low-Tech</p> <p>Augmented input as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Choice Conversation Communication boards/books Lists/wallet size cards for specific situations (eg. Grocery shopping, bank transactions, medical appts) Partner-training on question-asking and conversation strategies <p>Scaffolded writing supports (E.g. email, letters, greeting cards)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple choice letter format Blank letter format List of phrases Cue cards <p>Mid to High-tech:</p> <p>Basic stored message device, i.e. Go Talk 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create page overlays for specific context, i.e. phone conversation Train partners to ask questions that allow for a response available on the overlay <p>Lingraphica speech generating devices http://www.aphasia.com/products/lingraphica-speech-generating-devices</p> <p>iPad/tablet: Supported use of Communication Apps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TouchChat app with pages made to convey a sequence of messages i.e. as required during community transaction or phone call <ul style="list-style-type: none"> simplify layouts to minimize levels/pages <p>Dynavox Compass - Stroke and Brain Injury Persona pageset: http://www.mynavox.com/DynaVoxCompass#StrokeAndBrainInjurySolution</p>
			COMPREHENSION <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to select a target response from an array of choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine minimum size of button for choices Determine maximum # of items per page. 		
			PRAGMATICS <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates awareness of situations where AAC is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess whether communicator needs partner support to utilize AAC strategy 		
			LINGUISTIC OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to navigate to the target overlay for the specific situation on a dynamic screen. <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to navigate to the target area for a specific situation on a sliding screen (iPad). <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to select the target wallet size card to present in a specific situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine how many layers can be managed to navigate to the target i.e., how many hits? Determine whether label or picture or label/picture combination is needed to locate target area. Determine how many choices are managed. Determine whether label or picture or label/picture combination is needed to assist with selecting the target wallet card for a specific situation 		
			COGNITIVE COMPONENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Attention/ Memory/ Sequencing/ Social Communication 		

List of Resources

1. J.P. Lasker, K. L, Garrett, & L.E. Fox (2007). Severe Aphasia. In D.R. Beukelman, K.L. Garrett, & K. M. Yorkston, *Augmentative Communication Strategies for Adults with acute or Chronic Medical Conditions*, (p. 163-206). Baltimore, Maryland: Paul H. Brooks Publishing.
2. K.L. Garrett & J. P. Lasker (2013). Adults with Severe Aphasia and Apraxia of Speech. In D.R. Beukelman & P. Mirenda, *Augmentative and Alternative Communication – Supporting Children and Adults with Complex Communication Needs*, (p. 405-445). Baltimore, Maryland: Paul H. Brooks Publishing.
3. K.L. Garrett & D.R. Beukelman (1992). Augmentative Communication Approaches for Persons with Severe Aphasia. In K. M. Yorkston, *Augmentative Communication in the Medical Setting*, (p. 245- 338). Austin, Texas: Pro-Ed.
4. K.L, Garrett, & J. Lasker. The Multimodal Communication Screening Task for Persons with Aphasia, MCST-A, 2005. <http://aac.unl.edu/screen/picture.pdf>
5. H. Goodglass, E. Kaplan, B. Barresi. Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination – 3rd Edition, 2000.
6. T. Iacono, & L. Cupples. Assessment of Phonological Awareness and Reading (APAR), Version 1.14, 200-2002. <http://www.elr.com.au/apar/>
7. A. Holland, C. Fratali, D. Fromm (1999). Communication Activities of Daily Living (CADL)
8. Pragmatically Organized Dynamic Display (PODD) communication books, by Gayle Porter. <https://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/pragmatic-organisation-dynamic-display-podd-communication-books-direct-access-templates>
9. L. Cherney. Oral Reading for Language in Aphasia with virtual therapist (ORLA). <http://www.bltek.com/virtual-teacher-side-menu/orla.html>