

Aphasia in Stroke Care: Using Supported Communication Strategies

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Disclosures

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Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to define the purpose of using Supported Communication with post-stroke patients and patients with aphasia.
2. Participants will be able to identify the key components of Supported Communication and a rationale for each technique.
3. Participants will be able to discuss case studies and describe which Supported Communication tools would be appropriate to support patient communication and participation.

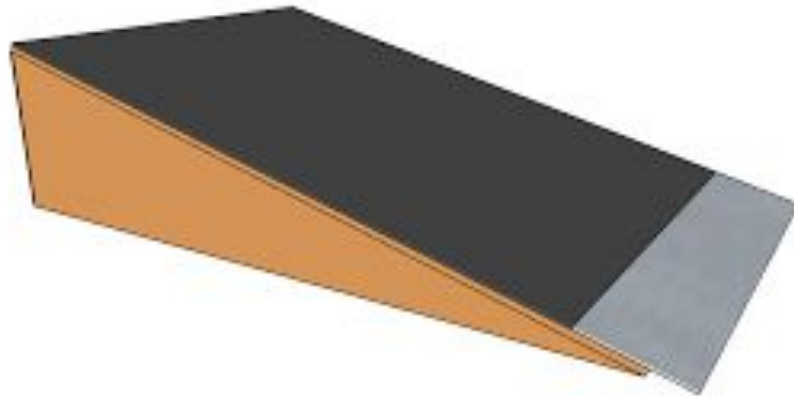
Aphasia 101

Aphasia is an impairment of language, affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write. Aphasia is always due to injury to the brain—most commonly from a stroke, particularly in older individuals. But brain injuries resulting in aphasia may also arise from head trauma, from brain tumors, or from infections.



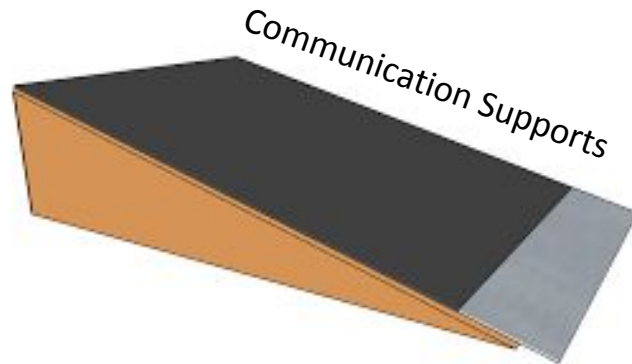
Supported Communication

- We provide numerous physical modification for people to have access to services...
 - Ramps, automatic doors, drop handles



Supported Communication

- We can provide this same access communicatively with a “communication ramp”
 - Trained communicators
 - Information in pictographic formats
 - Keywording
 - Including the individual in important decisions



Assumptions

1. Aphasia makes it difficult to appear competent
2. There is a relationship between perceived competence and conversational opportunity
3. This communication access is essential for life participation
4. Competence can be revealed by a skilled partner that provides a “communication ramp” to increase communicative effectiveness

What is the
nature of the
communication
opportunities?

Supported Communication

- A communication method that allows you to have a conversation with an individual who has difficulty expressing thoughts or understanding messages
- Particularly useful for more impacted patients
- Allows the person to communicate for themselves and give more accurate information than a proxy

Video Example Pre Training

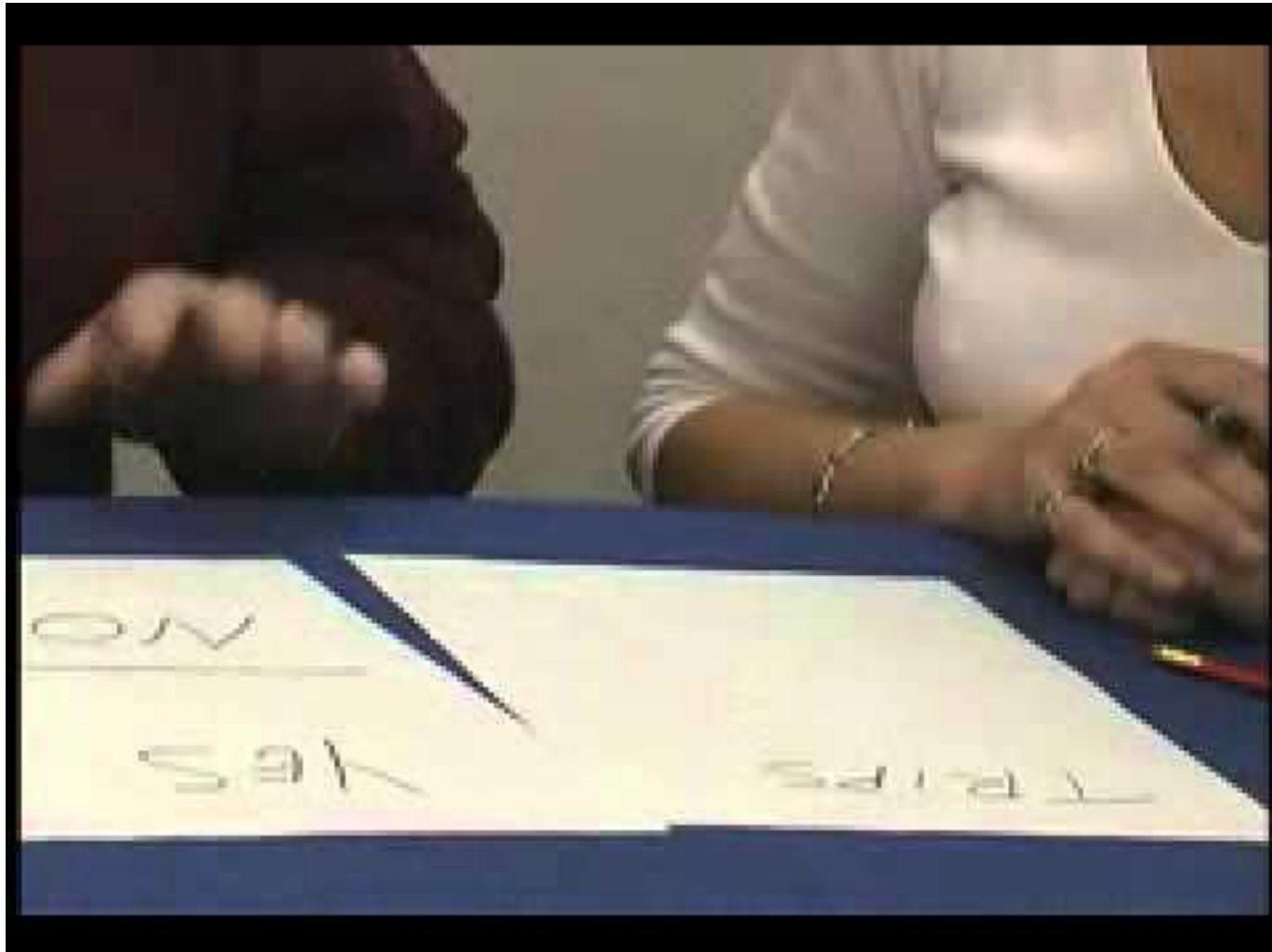


The Framework for SCA

Acknowledge competence – help someone feel as though they are being treated respectfully

- Speak naturally
- Acknowledge frustrations
- Attribute breakdowns to your own limitations
- Sometimes seeking outside help

Acknowledge Competence & Responsibility



Ask for Permission to Get Assistance



The Framework for SCA

Reveal Competence – Get and give accurate information

- Is your message clear?
- Does the person have a way to answer your questions?
- Have you checked for understanding?

The Framework for SCA

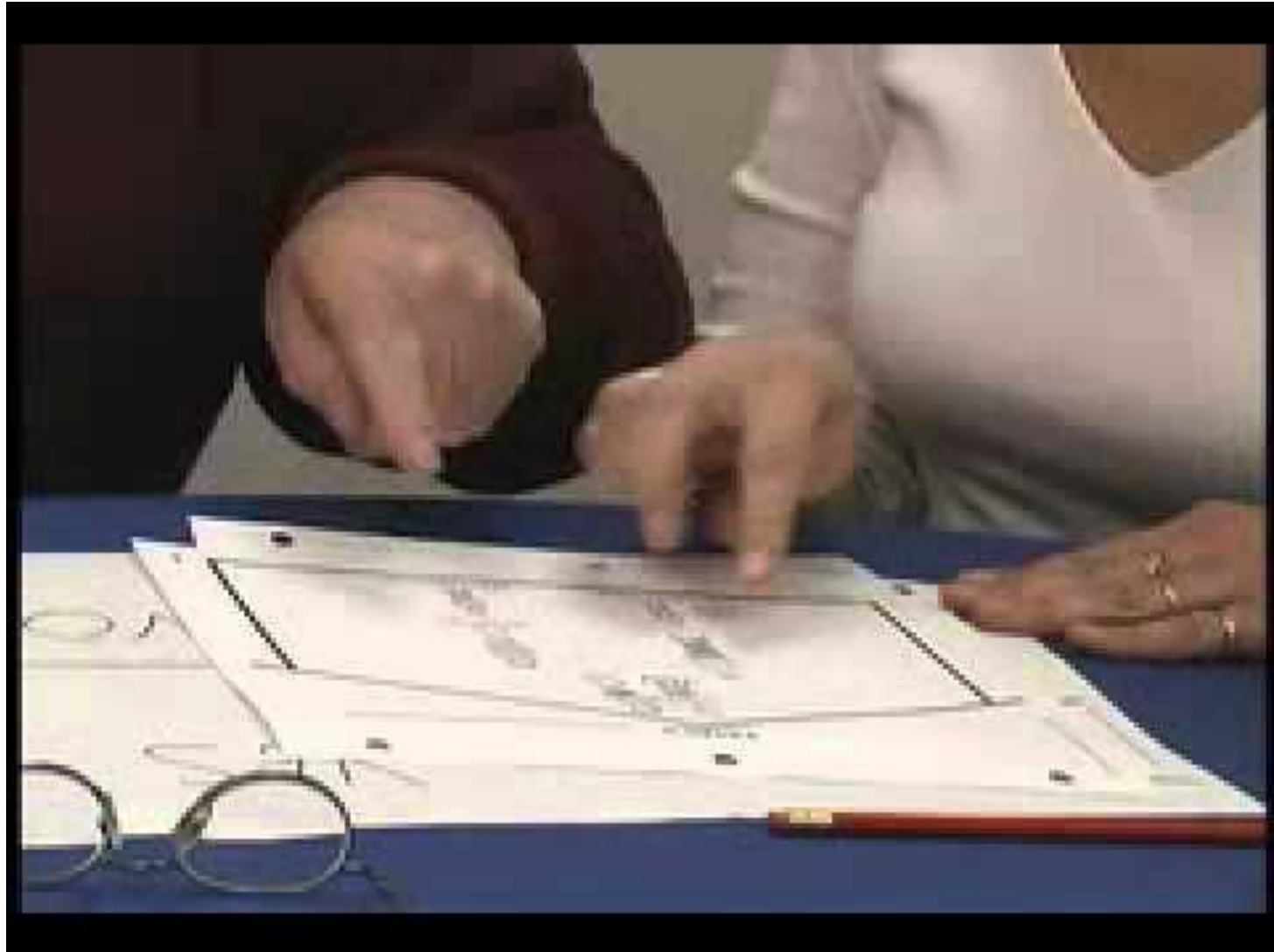
Reveal Competence – Get and give accurate information

- Is your message clear?
 - Gestures
 - Writing key words/drawing
 - Using pictographic materials

Have your tools - Keyword everything



Use Pictographic Materials



Use Gestures



The Framework for SCA

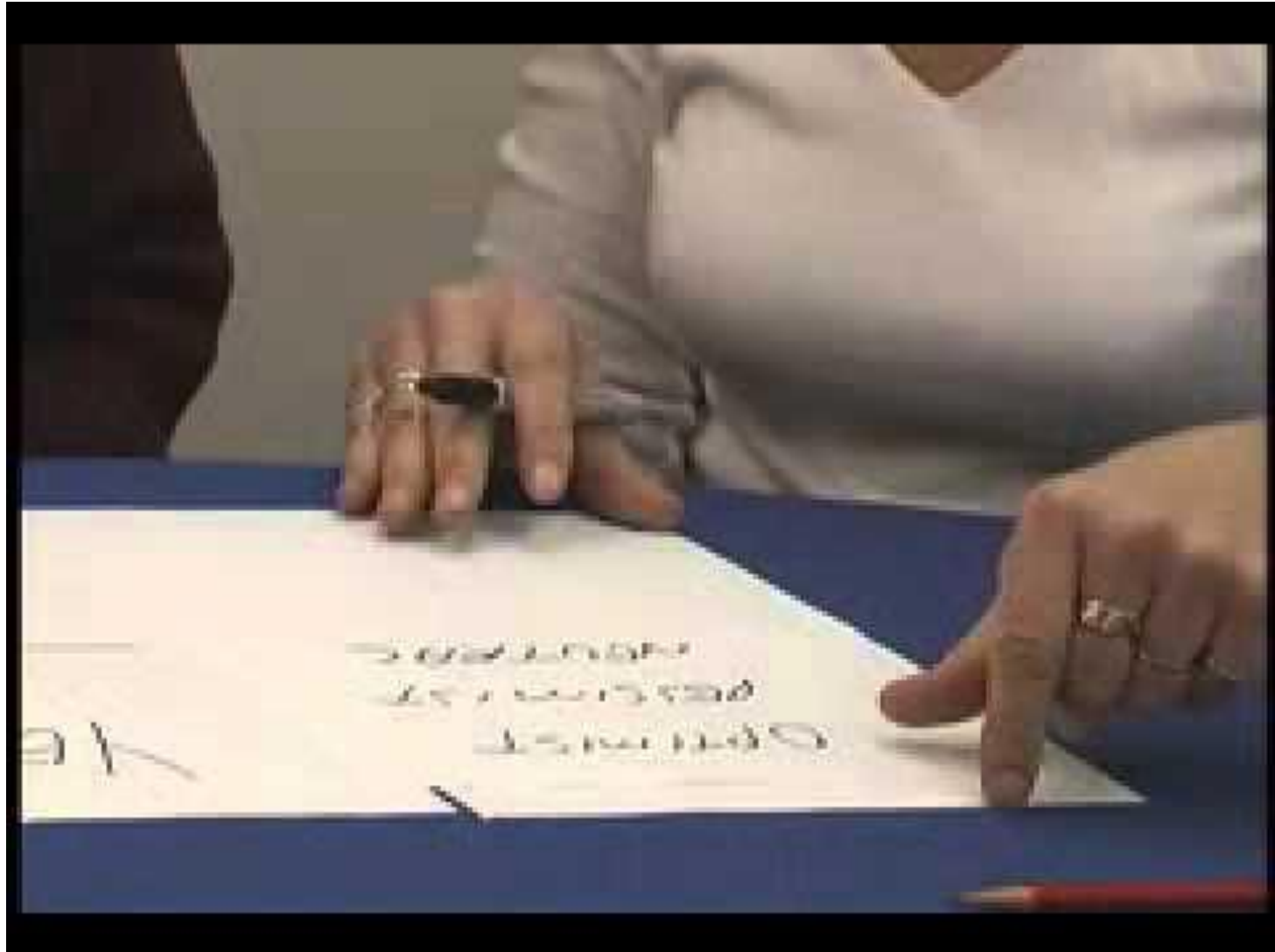
Reveal Competence – Get and give accurate information

- Does the person have a way to answer your questions?
 - Give time
 - Use visuals
 - Multiple choices
 - Yes/No

Slow Down and Give Time and Tools



Multiple Choice

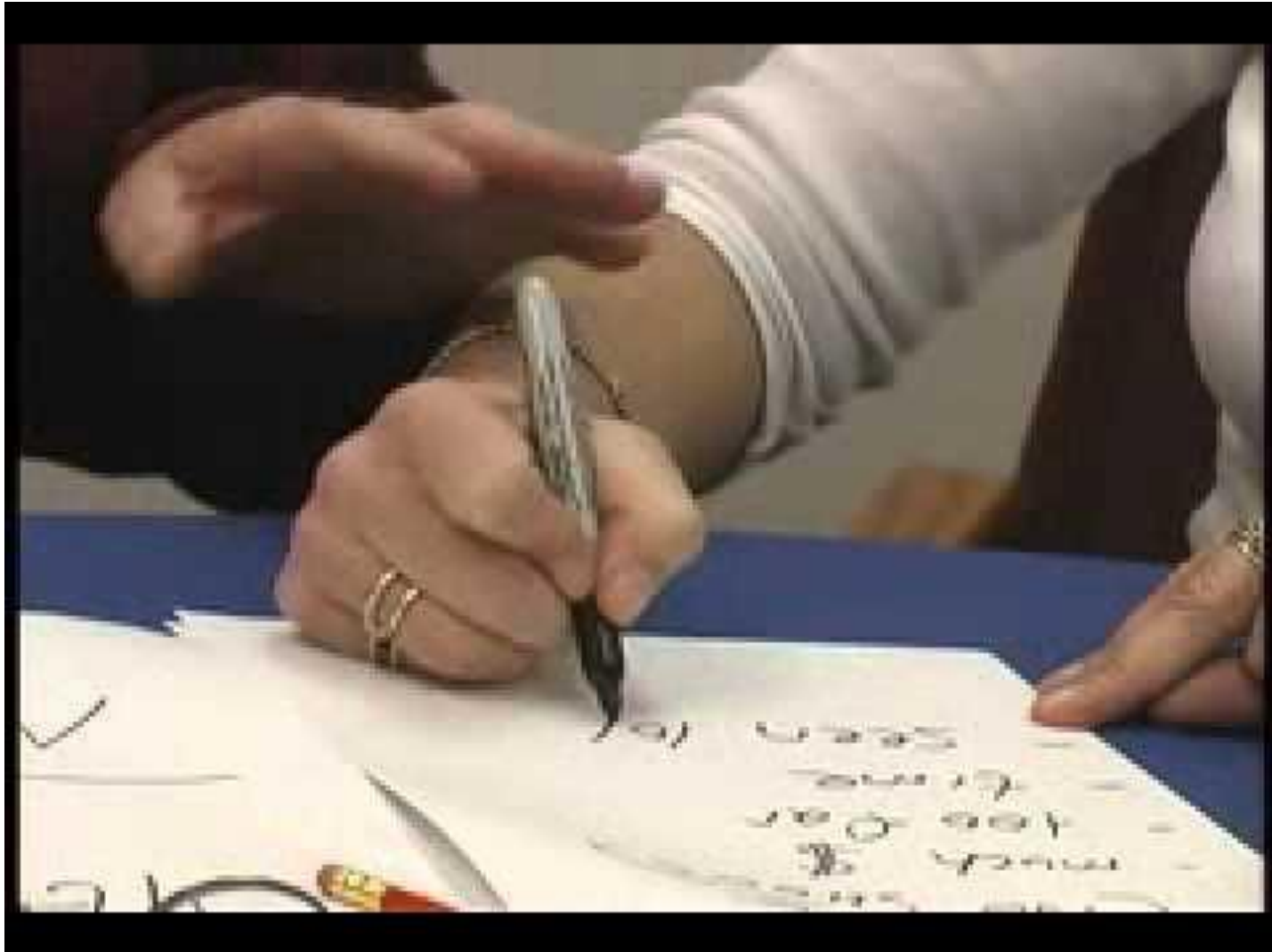


The Framework for SCA

Reveal Competence – Get and give accurate information

- Have you checked for understanding?
 - Reflect: repeat the patients message
 - Expand: Add what you think they might be trying to say
 - Summarize: pull it all together

Summarize



Video Example Post Training



Supporting Communication

Validate and acknowledge the person with aphasia's (PWA) competence: "I know you know"

1. Ask simple, single questions
2. Allow time for the PWA to answer
3. Use a tablet and pen to provide key word prompts and allow PWA to write or draw
4. If necessary, ask PWA's permission to ask the care partner for guidance

Tools that help!

have these accessible in all places you can

- Paper and Pen
- Pictures or Icons
- Communication Devices
- Technology that works for you

Questions to ask yourself

- What are the opportunities?
- Are you being understood?
- Can they answer?
- What supports are available/ do you need to do this?
- What can I try that I may not have before (new tool / new scenario)

Questions?

Thank you!

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