Orthophonie
VoxLingue
Speech and Language

Printable sheet

Talking with someone who has aphasia: the fridge sheet

For family and visitors.

Eight habits

1. Sit face to face, at the same level.
2. Turn off the TV.
3. Keep an adult tone.
4. Say one idea at a time.
5. Wait. Give them time.
6. Add gestures and write key words.
7. Don't finish their sentences, unless they ask.
8. Don't pretend you understood.

When the message gets stuck

1. Say you didn't understand.
2. Find the general topic.
3. Yes or no, written choices, pencil, picture.
4. Restate, or come back later.

Sudden trouble speaking or understanding, or new signs: call 911.

Sources: AQPA; CHUM (2019); Kimberly Martins, speech therapist. General information.

voxlingue.com/post/aphasia-after-stroke-families

Orthophonie VoxLingue Speech and Language

Printable sheet

For the discharge meeting

Bring this page to the team and note the answers.

Who follows up on speech therapy after discharge, and when?

Can you show us how to talk with them?

Does swallowing need to be checked?

Who do we call if the wait gets longer?

Card to cut out and show

I have aphasia.
I know what I want to say.
Please give me time.

Sources: AQPA; CHUM (2019); Kimberly Martins, speech therapist. General information.

voxlingue.com/post/aphasia-after-stroke-families