



TD Snap® Aphasia

Training Cards



Contents

3	FAQ
4	Aphasia and Communication: Introduction
4	Aphasia and Communication: Communication Supports
5	Aphasia and Communication: Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA)
6	Aphasia and Communication: Communication Partner Strategies
6	Aphasia and Communication: Strategies
7	Introduction to Communication Tools
9	Topics: Visual Scene vs. Grid
10	Customizing the Toolbar
11	Using Google Assistant With TD Snap
13	Using Alexa
14	Let's Use It!
15	Activity: Doctor Visit
16	Activity: Going to a Restaurant
17	Activity: Watching Television or a Movie
18	Activity: Directing Care
19	Activity: House Cleaning
20	Additional Support



FAQ

What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)?

AAC provides a collection of communication strategies and tools that support interaction and participation for people with significant communication challenges.

Will AAC keep an individual from talking?

No, in fact there is over a decade of research that states AAC does not interfere with the use or regaining of natural speech.

Is AAC useful for individuals who have some speech?

Yes. AAC can support an individual with aphasia when conversing independently with both familiar and unfamiliar communication partners.

Should we wait to work on AAC until regular speech therapy is finished?

Absolutely not. Using communication supports should start from the very beginning and be a part of all therapy sessions. People with aphasia should always have access to tools to help them communicate while working on speech restoration.

How long will the individual with aphasia need to use AAC?

This will depend on the individual and the severity of their communication impairment. Some people may need to use AAC tools long-term as a backup to their speech.

Does aphasia affect a person's intelligence?

No. A person with aphasia may have difficulty retrieving words and names, but the person's intelligence is not affected.

Aphasia and Communication: Introduction

Aphasia is a language disorder caused by a neurological event (e.g. stroke, brain injury) affecting certain parts of the brain.

Aphasia can cause difficulty with:

- Understanding speech and written words
- Verbal and written expression

What is aphasia like?

Imagine you are in a foreign country where you only know a few words of the language. You know what you want to say, but you may have difficulty in many situations:

- Saying what you mean
- Understanding others
- Reading and writing language
- Social interactions
- Problem solving



Aphasia DOES NOT affect intelligence.

Who gets aphasia?

- Annually, 15 million strokes occur worldwide. Up to 38% of stroke survivors can develop aphasia.
- Aphasia is more common than Parkinson's Disease, Cerebral Palsy, or Muscular Dystrophy.
- Aphasia can affect people of any age, race, nationality, and gender.
- 80% of aphasia cases were caused by a stroke.

What areas of life are impacted by aphasia?

- Participation in daily activities (e.g. grocery shopping, ordering food)
- Understanding of world events
- Decision-making
- Social interactions
- Learning new things presented using language

Aphasia and Communication: Communication Supports

Using communication supports means to use a variety of methods to convey one's thoughts, opinions and ideas (Purdy, M. & Van Dyke, J.A., 2011).

We all use different ways to communicate and often use them in combination to express our thoughts and ideas.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| ■ Gestures | ■ Speech | ■ Drawing |
| ■ Pointing | ■ Writing | ■ Body Language |

People with aphasia (PWA) and their communication partners may use additional tools to support interaction.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ■ Photo Albums | ■ Word Lists | ■ Scripts | ■ Contact list |
| ■ Calendars | ■ Communication boards/books | ■ Restaurant menu | ■ AAC device or app |
| ■ Whiteboard | | ■ Rating Scales | |

Aphasia and Communication: Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA)

What is LPAA?

- The person with aphasia is at the center of all decision making.
- Focus is on empowering the person with aphasia to participate in the recovery process.
- Focus on collaboration to ensure a more rapid return to active life.
- Focus on improving quality of life, mood, and overall well-being for the person with aphasia.

What does LPAA do?

- LPAA reminds clinicians and researchers to focus on the real-life goals of people affected by aphasia.
- It emphasizes re-engagement in life by strengthening daily participation in activities of choice, regardless of the stage of management (recent onset or years post-stroke).
- It focuses on creating positive, supportive communication environments.



Why is this important?

- People with aphasia like to re-engage in what is motivating, important, and functional to them. They require support and tools to meet these goals.
- In order to create a positive communication environment, family and caregivers need to learn to become great communication partners.
- We never want people with aphasia to feel isolated or alone. It doesn't have to be difficult for them to maintain social relationships and interactions.

Aphasia and Communication: Communication Partner Strategies

The success of a communication interaction with a person with aphasia is often dependent on the skills and abilities of the communication partner. There are various strategies that the communication partner can learn to help people with aphasia communicate more effectively.

Slow down

Slowing down the rate of speech and using short sentences can help the person with aphasia better understand what is being said.

Give time to respond

Pause after speaking to allow PWA time to process what you have said and formulate their response. Don't rush them.

Write key words

Writing down key words can help reinforce understanding. For example, if you are saying "It's time to go to your doctor's appointment" you might write down "time, go, doctor".

Written choice

Presenting two or more choices verbally and in writing can support the ability to communicate a preference. For example, I might ask "What would you like for dinner?". Then, write and verbally say "chicken", "lasagna", "pizza". Then ask the person to point to their answer. Even if PWA can't read they will remember what the choices are and will be able to respond.

Quiet environment and fewer distractions

A quiet environment with minimal distractions can help PWA focus and increase their understanding.

Use gestures and pointing

Use gestures and pointing while you are speaking to provide additional cues and information.

Aphasia and Communication: Strategies

When communicating, PWA may use various strategies to express themselves.

Pointing and gestures

Pointing and use of gestures can add to the message.

Using a different word

If the PWA has trouble communicating a certain word, try suggesting a different word. For example, if someone is stuck saying the word "difficult," they could say "hard" or "not easy" instead.

Drawing

Drawing can be very effective in aiding verbal communication.

First letter cueing

When the PWA is stuck trying to say a word, locating the first letter of the word on the Keyboard page can help them get the word out or help the communication partner know what they are trying to say.

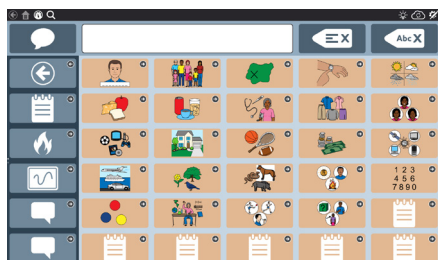
Introduction to Communication Tools

The communication tools available in TD Aphasia will help a person with aphasia communicate while still using their speech. When communicating, PWA may use various strategies to express themselves.



QuickFires

QuickFires provide a fast and easy way to communicate the little words needed in any topic and environment. Depending on grid size, there are up to five categories: Greetings and Social, Personal Needs, My Aphasia, Feelings, Communication Repairs.



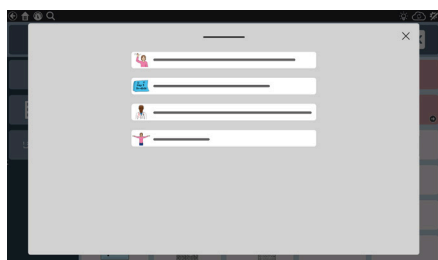
Word Lists

Word Lists contain lists of individual words organized in categories. You can edit the pre-made lists and also create your own Word Lists.



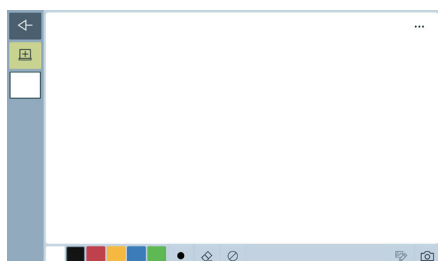
Topics

Topics provide messages that can be used to communicate in everyday environments. Use existing Topics (e.g., Sports, Meals, Pets, etc.) and create your own.



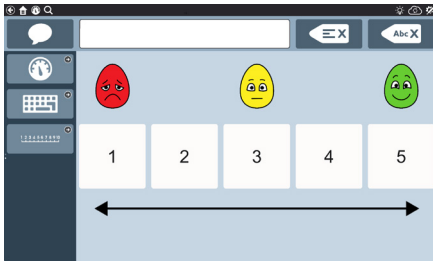
Scripts

Scripts include a series of sequential messages to help someone communicate in situations that are important. Scripts can be used to tell stories, exchange information, and to provide cues to produce speech. Every Topic has a sample script that can be modified to make it personal.



Whiteboard

The Whiteboard can be used to write letters, numbers, words, or draw pictures. Save drawings or messages to use in a future conversation.



Rating Scales

Rating Scales help PWA share their opinions. Communication partners can also use Rating Scales to support understanding when speaking with PWA.



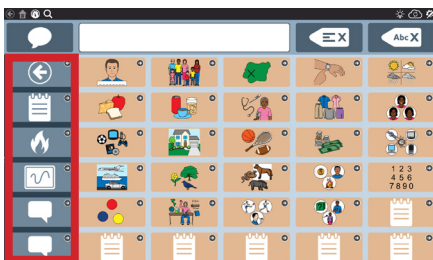
Word Lists

Word Lists contain lists of individual words organized in categories. You can edit the pre-made lists and also create your own Word Lists.



Keyboard

The Keyboard, available in both alphabetical and QWERTY layouts, can be used to communicate by typing a single letter or a full word. Word Prediction is also available to support spelling and more accurate typing.



Toolbar

The Toolbar provides a way to navigate between communication tools. It remains present on every page except the Whiteboard.



Dashboard

Access Alexa, Google Home, Rating Scales, Photo Albums, and Calendar Pages in the Dashboard. The Dashboard also contains volume control, battery status, and date/time.

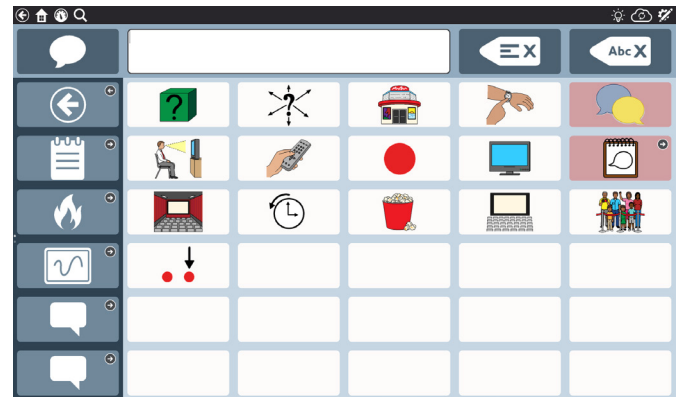
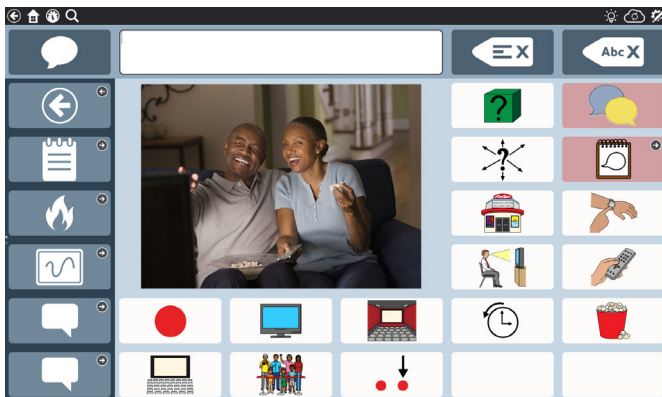


Edit Button

Select the Edit button to make changes to your pages and settings.

Topics: Visual Scene vs. Grid

Topics are available from the Toolbar in two layouts: Visual Scene and Grid. Try out both versions to see what works best for the person with aphasia. To get started with Topics, see the activities on pages 15 through 19.



Visual Scene

Visual Scene Topics contain Topic Messages organized around a large, contextual photograph.

Benefits: The visual scene contextualizes the conversation by depicting a situation, place, or experience in its entirety (camp site) vs an isolated image (tree).

It encourages for multiple communication exchanges (comment, ask questions) rather than one turn.

Grid

Grid Topics have Topic Messages organized in a simple grid based on the size you selected during set up.

Benefits: More Topic Messages are available on each page.



Once you decide which Topic layout option works best, hide the other Topic layout option button on the Toolbar. You can always unhide it if the one you select isn't working. See the Customizing the Toolbar card to learn how to make changes to the Toolbar.

Customizing the Toolbar

Hiding the tools you don't need:

- 1 Select the **Edit** button.



- 2 Select the button on the Toolbar that you want to hide.



- 3 Select **Hide**.

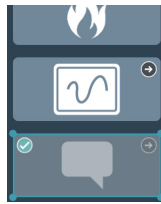


The button is now hidden. In Edit Mode, the hidden button appears darkened compared to the other buttons. In Use Mode, the button will not appear at all.

Note: To show a hidden button, select **Show**.

Once you hide a button, you may want to rearrange the other buttons in the Toolbar.

- 4 Select **Done**.



Moving items to change order:

- 1 Select the **Edit** button.



- 2 Select the button on the Toolbar that you want to move.

- 3 Press and hold the button, then drag your finger up or down to move it.

- 4 Release the button when it is in the position you would like.

- 5 Select **Done**.



Using Google Assistant With TD Snap

The Google Assistant pages available in TD Snap are organized by function. The buttons on these pages allow you to manage everyday tasks, play music, ask questions, and even control your home using Google Assistant.

To find Google Assistant pages in TD Snap:

- 1 Select **Dashboard** in the Toolbar.



- 2 Select **Google Assistant**.



The icons indicate the equipment you need to use that button.



No additional hardware required.



Google Nest mini device or Google Assistant-enabled speaker required.



Smart outlet, light bulb, and/or thermostat required.

Tips for Success:

- Playing music very loud may make turning off the music or giving any commands difficult.
- If you don't get the response you expected when sending a Google command, try different wording or be more specific.
Example: If "Ok Google, turn on the light" didn't work, try "Ok Google, turn on the family room light."
- Remember, when using an external Google speaker, you must say "Ok Google" before the command.
- Make sure you have a way to call for help and a backup system for home automation functions.
- Games work best when they don't require specific responses and give ample time to respond.
- Playing music very loud may make turning off the music or giving any commands difficult.
- If you don't get the response you expected when sending a Google command, try different wording or be more specific.
Example: If "Ok Google, turn on the light" didn't work, try "Ok Google, turn on the family room light."
- Remember, when using an external Google speaker, you must say "Ok Google" before the command.
- Make sure you have a way to call for help and a backup system for home automation functions.
- Games work best when they don't require specific responses and give ample time to respond.

Common Questions for Google Assistant

Do I need the Google Home app?

Yes, you will need the Google Home app on your phone or tablet if you have purchased additional equipment (e.g. Google Nest Mini, smart plugs, etc.).

Do I need a Google Account?

Yes, you need a free Google Account to use Google Assistant. You must connect your Google account to TD Snap (*Edit > User > Connect to Google*).

Can I listen to music?

Yes, you must use an external Google speaker (e.g. Google Nest Mini, Google Home Nest, etc.), and make sure the device can still be heard over the music.

Can I control lights in my home?

Yes, with the right equipment you can control the lights in your home.

I have a smart appliance in my house. Can I control it with Google Assistant?

Yes. Consult the guide that came with a smart appliance for detailed information.

Can I use Google Assistant for emergency calls?

No. Google Assistant will NOT call Emergency Services.

How do I get support?

For issues with TD Snap software, contact Tobii Dynavox Technical Support.

For issues with smart equipment, go to the manufacturer's website.

Google Support Troubleshooting

<https://qrco.de/GoogleAssistantExplore>

<https://qrco.de/GoogleAssistantHelp>

<https://qrco.de/GoogleNestHelp>



Read the full Google Assistant for TD Snap Guide.

<https://qrco.de/gatdsa>

Using Alexa

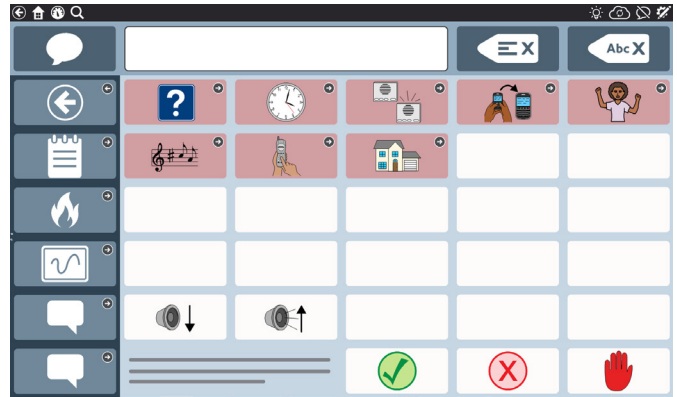
Alexa pages are available in TD Aphasias to allow PWA to manage everyday tasks, play music, ask questions, and even control the home. You will need to purchase an Amazon Echo device. There are a range of Echo devices that can work with this feature. An internet connection is required.

To find Google Assistant pages in TD Snap:

- 1 Select **Dashboard** in the Toolbar.



- 2 Select **Google Assistant**.



Tips for Success:

- Play music at a reasonable volume. Playing music very loud may make turning off the music or giving additional commands difficult.
- If you don't get the result you expected when sending a command, try different wording or be more specific.
- Remember to add "Alexa" at the beginning of the message when adding new commands to the page.
- Make sure you have a backup plan in situations when your device can't connect to Alexa (e.g., the internet is down).
- When using Alexa to play games, choose games that give ample time to respond and don't require exact responses.

Common Questions

Do I need additional apps?

Yes, you will need the Amazon Alexa app.

Can I listen to music?

Yes, you will need to use an external Amazon Echo device. Make sure any commands given through TD Aphasias can still be heard over the music.

Can I control lights in my home?

Yes, but additional equipment is required (e.g., a smart lightbulb).

I have a smart appliance in my house. Can I control it with Alexa?

Yes. Consult the guide that came with the smart appliance for detailed information.

Can I use Alexa to make emergency calls?

No. Alexa will NOT call Emergency Services.

How can I get help?

For issues, with TD Aphasias contact Tobii Dynavox Technical Support.

For issues with smart equipment, go to the manufacturer's website.



Let's Use It!

When you are introducing a new communication device or communication app to someone, it can be hard to know where to start. We developed six activities to help get you started.



Choose activities that are motivating and remain engaging. Feel free to repeat activities since repetition supports learning.

Tips

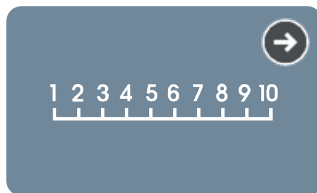
- Each activity has ideas for using various communication tools. As discussed earlier, PWA benefit from using communication supports. Use what is most helpful to the individual.
- Remember that PWA should use speech whenever they are able. The tools serve as a backup when speech isn't effective.
- Don't put too much pressure on yourself or the individual. It's okay to make mistakes.
- Don't forget to model the communication tools. Modeling involves touching and using the AAC device as you talk and interact with the individual.

Activity: Doctor Visit

Communication Tools



Health Topic



Rating Scales

Preparation

Locate the Health Topic and review the vocabulary.

During activity

- 1 Say, "Let's talk about going to the doctor."
- 2 Ask the person with aphasia to select **Topics** in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
- 3 Select the **Health** Topic and say, "You have a doctor appointment next week. Let's talk about what you want to say."
 - Select '**Something hurts.**' and say, "If you are having pain you could say, 'Something hurts' and then point to an area on your body or point to specific areas using the picture in the Body Topic."
- 4 Ask the person with aphasia to select **Rating Scales** in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
 - Select the **Pain Scale**.
 - Say "How much pain are you having right now? You can select 0 if there is no pain and 10 if it is severe pain." Use facial expressions to help communicate the numbers (smile when you say "0" and grimace when you say "10").



If the individual doesn't have a gesture or verbal way to answer yes/no, go to QuickFires for yes and no buttons on the screen.

Additional supports



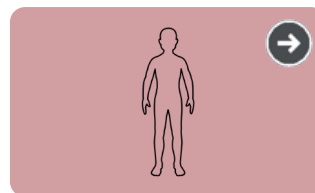
Explore the Whiteboard

Use the Whiteboard to help the individual tell someone that they need to see the doctor. Have them write the doctor's name, or the date and time of their next visit. They could even write how they feel, "good" or "bad".



Explore the Body & Health Word List

Ask the individual if they have pain and direct them to the Body & Health Word List to choose words related to the discomfort they are having.



Explore the Body Topic

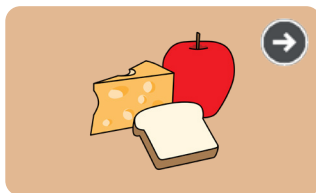
Ask the person with aphasia if they have pain and direct them to point to the part of the body using the picture.

Activity: Going to a Restaurant

Communication Tools



QuickFires



Food Word List



Food Word List

Preparation

Explore QuickFires, locate the Food Word List and Drinks Word List, and review the vocabulary.

During activity

- 1 Say, "Let's talk about eating a meal in a restaurant."
- 2 Ask the person with aphasia to select **QuickFires** in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
 - Select **Personal Needs** and say, "I'm hungry."
- 3 Ask the person with aphasia to select **Word Lists** in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
 - Select **Food** and say, "Let's get some lunch." Select "Lunch and Dinner."
 - Say "I am going to have" and then select something on the page.
 - Say, "What do you want?"
- 4 Ask the person with aphasia to go back to the Word Lists Menu or show them how to find it.
 - Select **Drinks** and say, "I'm thirsty, too."
 - Say "What do you like to drink?"

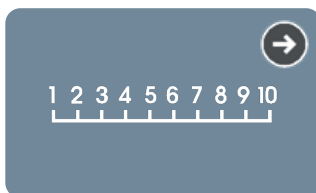
Additional supports



Explore the Whiteboard

Ask the individual to draw or write what they want to eat.

Write down 3 menu options and ask them to point to what they want to eat.

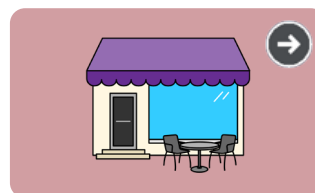


Explore Rating Scale

Ask the individual to respond to the following questions using the Rating Scale:

What did you think of the food?

How was the service?



Explore the Restaurant Topic

Have the individual practice asking questions (e.g. Where should we go?) and give directions (e.g. Get our server.) related to eating out.

Activity: Watching Television or a Movie

Communication Tools



Movies and TV Topic

Preparation

Locate the Movies and TV Topic and review the vocabulary.

Edit the “Let’s watch...” button message to add a favorite TV show or movie (e.g. “Let’s watch The Office”).

See the Editing a Button card for instructions.

During activity

- 1 Say, “We are going to talk about watching TV or a movie.”
- 2 Ask the person with aphasia to select Topics in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
 - Ask the person with aphasia to select the **Movies and TV** topic or show them how to find it.
 - Select **What’s on?** while also saying the phrase.
 - Select **Let’s watch** while also saying the phrase.

Additional supports



Explore Rating Scales

Ask the person with aphasia to respond to the following questions using the Rating Scale:

How was that show?

What did you think of the acting?



Explore Word Lists - Entertainment

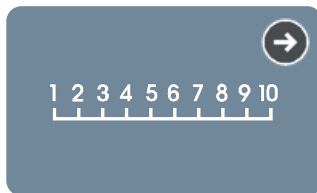
Ask what kind of show the person with aphasia likes (e.g. comedy, sports, etc.).
Note: Depending on the grid size you are using, you may need to scroll down on the page.

Activity: Directing Care

Communication Tools



QuickFires



Rating Scales

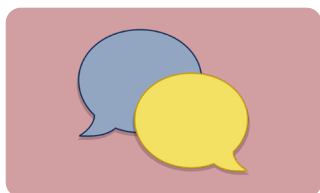
Preparation

Explore QuickFires and locate the Rating Scales in the Toolbar.

During activity

- 1 Say, "We are going to discuss directing care."
- 2 Ask the person with aphasia to select Rating Scales in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
 - Choose **Rating Scale – 5 Buttons**.
 - Say, "Are you comfortable?" Point to 5 and say, "very comfortable", then point to 1 while saying, "not comfortable at all."
- 3 Ask the person with aphasia to select QuickFires in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
 - Select **Personal Needs** and ask the person with aphasia if they are "hot," "cold," or "OK," while selecting the corresponding buttons.

Additional activities



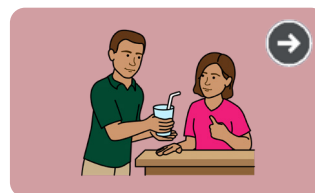
Explore Script

Select *Topics > Caregiver > Script*. Review and rehearse the script. Modify the script as needed to meet your specific needs.



Explore Keyboard

The person with aphasia can use the keyboard to type what they need. Remind them that a few letters will sometimes be enough to help someone understand what they need.



Explore Caregiver Topic

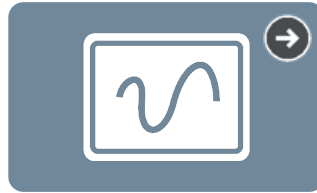
Explore messages in the Caregiver Topic. Ask the person with aphasia to practice asking questions (e.g. What time?) or giving instructions (e.g. I want to shower).

Activity: House Cleaning

Communication Tools



Cleaning Topic



Whiteboard



Home Word List

Preparation

Explore the Cleaning Topic, Home Word List, and Whiteboard.

During activity

- 1 Say, "We are going to discuss cleaning the house."
- 2 Ask the person with aphasia to select **Word Lists** or show them how to find it.
 - Select the **Home** Word List.
 - Say, "What rooms need to be cleaned?" or "Where should I start cleaning?" while calling attention to the choices on the page.
- 3 Ask the person with aphasia to select the **Whiteboard** in the Toolbar or show them how to find it.
 - Ask the person with aphasia to draw or write what should be done first. If they can't draw or write independently, write down 3 choices while speaking each choice (e.g., vacuum, dusting, sweeping).



You can select the buttons on the page while you say the word to help cue the person with aphasia.

Additional supports



Explore Rating Scales

Ask the person with aphasia to respond to the following questions using the Rating Scale. Remind them what the numbers mean (e.g. "5 is great and 1 is really bad.").

How well was the house cleaned?

Are you happy with the work that was done?



Explore Cleaning Topic

Rephrase the sentence: Have the person with aphasia use the Cleaning Topic to practice asking questions (e.g. Can you clean this?) or giving instructions (e.g. Please dust.).

Additional Support



TD Snap Support Page

qrco.de/SnapHelp



TD Facebook Community

qrco.de/TDFB



North America Technical Support

1-800-344-1778 ext. 1

support.na@tobiidynavox.com

Learn how to edit buttons, back up and share Page Sets, and use other TD Snap features:



TD Snap Basics Training Cards

qrco.de/bdPliQ



TD Snap User's Manual

qrco.de/bdDScg



Tobii Dynavox Learning Hub

learn.tobiidynavox.com