

APHASIA HOME SUPPORT GUIDE

Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Communication Boards

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Principles

- Incorporating **non-verbal** methods to **compensate for or supplement** impaired speech, thereby improving **communication effectiveness** (Baylor et al., 2020).
- Provides an intuitive communication channel using images, text, and symbols, which can reduce frustration and enhance autonomy and life participation (Baylor et al., 2020).

1 Target Audience

- Patients with **moderate to severe** aphasia.
- Patients who can make a choice by **pointing, eye-gazing,** or using a **gesture**.

2 Design of Current Guide

- A4 paper-based board.

3 Steps

Step 1

- When the patient needs to communicate, the carer presents the communication board. The patient points to a relevant picture/word to express an immediate need.

Step 2

- The carer responds immediately to confirm the patient's intent.
 - E.g., "You pointed to 'unwell'. Where do you feel unwell? Can you show me?"

Step 3

- The carer confirms again and acts on the intent.
 - E.g., "You pointed to 'head'. I understand. Let me help you to the bed to rest."

***Tips

- » Communication boards are personalised tools; content should be tailored to the patient's abilities, interests, and needs.
- » If the patient needs more time to process information and respond, wait patiently for at least 10–15 seconds.
- » Even if the patient's pointing is not entirely accurate, affirm their communication attempt and help them find the correct expression.
- » Keep the board within easy reach and encourage its use in all environments, not just during practice.
- » The board does not replace all attempts at speech; encourage patients to use it alongside any speech or gestures.

④ The information provided is for reference purposes only. For professional management or to learn more, please contact a speech and language therapist.

Reference(s)

- BAYLOR, C., BURNS, M., MCDONOUGH, K., MACH, H., & YORKSTON, K. (2020). TEACHING MEDICAL STUDENTS SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH PATIENTS WHO HAVE COMMUNICATION DISORDERS. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, *29*(4), 1–14. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1044/2020_AJSLP-20-00016](https://doi.org/10.1044/2020_AJSLP-20-00016)

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AAC: Communication Board (Template)

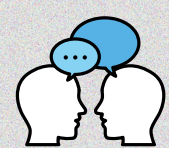


Empty rectangular box for communication board content.

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AAC: Communication Board (Template)



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