VISUAL SUPPORTS AND APHASIA: AN APPROACH TO IMPROVING CONVERSATION GROUP OUTCOMES

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ONE FRIDAY IN TEAM MEETING...

GROUP BACKGROUND

• Beginnings
• Schiefelbusch Clinic- KU Lawrence Campus
• Meets Weekly for 1.5 Hours
• 17 years - 2 Different Clinical Faculty

GROUP LIMITATIONS

• Activities
• Room/Environment
• Facilitation Style
• Level of Visual Supports

GROUP MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time in Group</th>
<th>Diagnosis and Personality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Severe aphasia and apraxia; moderate to severe difficulty with word finding; stronger comprehension than expression; uses wheelchair and occasionally uses SGD; assistive agent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Dysarthria and very mild aphasia; has hearing aids; decreased intelligibility following removal of brain tumor with occasional word finding difficulties; very social and very verbal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>Mild to moderate aphasia; moderate difficulty with word finding; verbally thức to help during communication breakdowns; social but quiet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>Developmental apraxia and selective mutism; communicates in group with eye contact and facial expressions; also brings tangible items to share with the group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1.5 years</td>
<td>Severe aphasia and apraxia; moderate comprehension deficits; difficulty with word finding; has NovaChat SGD; very social and very verbal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CURRENT GROUP STRUCTURE

Room Change
Activity Structure
Facilitation Style
Supports Implemented
TYPICAL GROUP SESSION

• Small Talk and Refreshments
• Updates or Current Events
• Guided Questions and General Conversation Around the Topic
• Activities
• Closing (or Lack There Of)

The structure of the group, activities, and materials can easily be adapted for any setting and support clients with various needs.

WEEKLY TOPICS

- Intro/Intro Week - Careers/Job - Gardening/Flowering/Agriculture - Sports - Music/Movies - Cars - Travel - Outdoors/Fishing/Hunting/Camping - Cooking - American History - End of Semester Potluck
BRAINSTORMING

- 2-3 Times During Semester
- Address Theme, Determine Discussion Questions and Activities
- Individualizing Activities and Supports
- Delegating Tasks

ACTIVITIES

GUIDED QUESTIONS

Current Event of the Week:
Super Bowl 51

Current Event: Black History Month
- The theme of the Black History Month is "Heal Our History, Heal Our Future". The choice of the theme is to encourage a sense of unity and healing among the African American community. The theme aims to honor the resilience and strength of the African American community.
- The focus will be on highlighting the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history.
- The event will include various activities such as workshops, presentations, and panel discussions.

ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE TOPIC

- Word Finding
- TV Game Shows
- Trivia
- Hands on Activities
- Picture Description

WORD FINDING
TV GAME SHOWS

“THE PRICE IS RIGHT”

Video Example

TRIVIA

Hands on Activities

PICTURE DESCRIPTION

ACTIVITY MODIFICATION: THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Time Limits
- Collaborative vs. Individual Effort
- Visual Supports Needed for Participation?
- Mobility/Access
- Motivation and Relevance
- Advance Preparation
VISUAL SUPPORTS

CONSIDERATIONS TO MAKE
• Text Size and Font
• Color
• Organized, Easy to Follow
• Images
• Customized to Client
• Relevant
• Useful

PRESENT GUIDING QUESTIONS VERBALLY AND VISUALLY

Would you Rather?
Eat ice cream or a cupcake?

Would you Rather?
Go to Royals or a Chiefs game?

PAIRED IMAGES AND TEXT

TYPES OF IMAGES

TYPES OF IMAGES
PERSONAL IMAGES AND SUPPORTS

MANIPULATIVE SUPPORTS

WORD BANKS

WORD BANKS WITH IMAGES

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS OR CLUES

LETTER/NUMBER BOARDS
FACILITATION STRATEGIES

- Seating Arrangement
  - Picture
  - Video Example

FACILITATION STRATEGIES

- Asking Open-Ended Questions to Guide Conversation
- Allowing Discussion to Flow Naturally in Any Direction
FACILITATION STRATEGIES

- Clinician Models Activities, Especially New Ones
- Model Use of Supports and Model Language on AAC Systems
- Indirectly Prompted Members as Needed to Participate or Utilize Supports
- Each Member Receives Copy of Support
  - Multiple Copies If Needed for the Activity

SURVEY RESULTS

ANNUAL END OF SEMESTER SURVEY

POSITIVE CHANGES IN THE GROUP THIS SEMESTER

- Number of Activities (5)
- Topics (5)
- Quality of Discussion (4)
- Visual Supports (4)
- Location (4)
- PowerPoint (2)

ENJOYMENT
IMPROVED PARTICIPATION

CASE EXAMPLE

Pre and Post Videos of A

COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE OF GROUP COMPARED TO PREVIOUS SEMESTERS

VISUAL SUPPORTS WERE HELPFUL TO ME WHEN ATTEMPTING TO COMMUNICATE...

General Information (topic or big ideas)

Specific Information (details)

QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF SUPPORTS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS SEMESTERS

ACTIVITIES
VIDEO ANALYSIS RESULTS

RATING PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Retrospective Using Session Recordings
- 2 Graduate Students Not Affiliated With the Conversation Group
- 2 Sessions of Baseline
- 2 Sessions with High Levels of Visual Supports

CIRSAG
Communication Interaction Rating Scale for Aphasia Group

CONCLUSIONS

- Beneficial to Groups:
  - Visual Supports
  - Semi-Structured Activities
  - Ways for Each Member to Participate
- Can Be Implemented in Every Setting
- Perceived Increase of Participation and Satisfaction

REFERENCES


