**Here are some suggestions to help communicate with a person with aphasia:**

1) Make sure you have the person's attention before you start.

2) Minimize or eliminate background noise (TV, radio, other people).

3) Keep your own voice at a normal level, unless the person has indicated otherwise.

4) Keep communication simple, but adult.  Emphasize key words.

5) Give them time to speak.  Resist the urge to finish sentences or guess.

6) Communicate with drawings, gestures, writing and facial expressions in addition to speech.

7) Confirm that you are communicating successfully with "yes" and "no" questions.

8) Praise all attempts to speak and downplay any errors.  Avoid insisting that that each word be produced perfectly.

9) Engage in normal activities whenever possible.  Do not shield people with aphasia from family or ignore them in a group conversation.

10) Encourage independence and avoid being overprotective.

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