

A Powerful Tool

Digital technology has created tools of communication so accessible, efficient, diverse and effective they have rapidly become mainstream.



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www.aphasiafriendly.co



Aphasia Friendly Resources

Society has a responsibility to **overcome disabling barriers** and provide **accessible environments** that promote **successful inclusion and participation** of every individual.

Article 9

United Nations Convention of Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities EU 2010

This includes **using digital technology** to support **communication access**.



Multi-Award winning Aphasia Friendly Resources

Award for Innovation 2014



County Durham and Darlington
NHS Foundation Trust
Chairmans Quality Award 2014
Making a Difference Award 2014



Highly recommended
Professional Excellence 2013

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Communication Disability



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and Technology

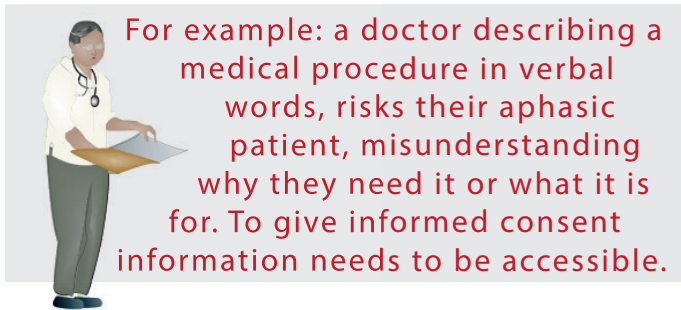
Information Leaflet



Technology can reduce communication disability by supporting:

Communication Access

Verbal communication can be **difficult to access** for people with Aphasia; leading to **confusion, isolation and loss of personal independence.**



Digital technology

gives us ready access to **non-verbal tools** that support communication.

For example:

Easy access information sites,
Dedicated aphasia friendly resources,
Online videos and images
can be used to support understanding.

Examples of tools that support communication access:

Aphasia Friendly iBooks
NHS Easy Info Zone
You Tube
Google Images

Communication Therapy

Digital technology can make **communication therapy** more accessible.

Online **software programmes** and **apps** can be used to complement one to one therapies and increase time spent on therapy activities.



It's important the digital therapy programme targets the specific communication impairment. A Speech and Language Therapist can assess and advise on this.



Telehealth services allow access to therapy for those who have difficulty attending clinics and may be easier to fit into busy lifestyles

Finding the right app:
Ask your Speech and Language Therapist
Try these app review sites:
Aphasia Software Finder: www.aphasia-softwarefinder.org
YappGuru: www.yappguru.com

Supporting Communication

Digital technology offers a huge variety of means to **support communication.**



Mobile devices features, such as camera/ photos, maps, video calls can be used to **support less verbal conversation.**



Accessibility settings can be set to read text aloud, set text size, use magnification, alter screen contrast, manipulate touch access, set up switch access, blue tooth with hearing aids and more.



Apps from simple YES / NO buttons - to pictures that build sentences, can be downloaded to **support expression.** Some mobile devices have keyboards with speech to text and drawing capacity.



Aphasia can be isolating. **Social Media** is a great for seeking **advice and support.** It links networks of people sharing the same experiences.

Visit www.aphasiafriendly.co for a step by step guide to communication access features integral to iPads.

Technology is not for everyone.

Core skills needed: Visual, attention, motivation. More **complex use** will require cognitive, motor and some language skills.