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If you have any ideas and suggestions to improve this guide or for another guide please contact:

Gwen Knight
Connect – the communication disability network
Connect House, 16-18 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL
Telephone: 020 7367 0840
Email: publications@ukconnect.org
www.ukconnect.org

Introduction/How to use this guide

This **Connect** ideas guide explores the **issues** faced by family and friends in **communicating** with someone who has **aphasia**.

Relatives of people with aphasia have told us about the **difficulties** they encounter having conversations, and some of the ways they have found to **overcome** them.

We have gathered together a **wealth of ideas and suggestions** from relatives and, in this guide, will **share** them with you.

All the information here comes from the **personal experiences of relatives** and the **expertise** they have gained from years of **living with aphasia**.



So, thinking back to why **conversations** are **important**, what can you do to help the person with aphasia to:

- **enjoy** a conversation
- take part on **equal terms**
- get a **point across** and **take in** what is being said
- play an **equal part** in **decision making**
- feel **involved**, valued, important
- **share** views, thoughts, feelings
- feel **engaged** in life

In summary, here are some things that you can do to help conversations go well:

- 👍 Pen and paper **to hand**
- 👍 Plenty of **time**
- 👍 Be **clear, one idea at a time**
- 👍 Write down **key words** as you go through the conversation
- 👍 Use **drawings**
- 👍 Use **drawing and writing yourself** and encourage the person with aphasia to use them too
- 👍 Use your key words and drawings to **check back** and **summarise**
- 👍 Use **gesture**
- 👍 Confirm **yes and no**
- 👍 Check that you and the person with aphasia have **both understood**

