

Supplemental Material S1. Communication Partner Training (CPT) Module Protocol.

Materials needed for the module:

- CPT module booklet
 - Graphics used throughout the session, especially during practice of the sub strategies under *Writing/Graphics*
- Whiteboard, markers, pens, and paper
 - used during practice of the sub strategies of *Writing/Graphics*

Presentation set-up:

- Open the Google Slides presentation found in the BOX folder.
- It is found under Couples Tx > CURRENT > CPT Module > CPT module.pptx
- Use the drop-down menu at the top titled "Open" to open it in Google Slides.
- Place your computer in a position both you and the couple can view it.
- You should be in slideshow mode and have it on the first slide.
- Have all materials needed for the session prepared beforehand.

[Begin with the following script:

RI: *"Today we will talk about communication strategies that can be helpful for people with aphasia and their communication partners.*

- *Our goal is to work together to identify strategies and techniques that you can both use to improve your communication.*
- *As we discuss, we hope that you will both participate and share your thoughts and feelings openly.*
- *We will also practice some strategies together to help solidify and integrate them into your conversation.*
- *We are here to support you and help you learn, so please feel free to ask questions or add your thoughts at any time.*
- *We will spend about one hour on this training, so we will likely not address all the strategies outlined in this presentation. Our goal is to focus on the strategies that will be most relevant to the two of you.*
- *However, you may take this booklet with you, and we will email you the slides with the videos, so that you will have access to information on all the strategies in this training presentation.*

We would like to begin by discussing what your communication is like right now."]

[Proceed to the second slide of the presentation and help the couple answer the question on strengths and the following question on challenges on the third slide.]

[Walk through the environmental tips for success slides (4-11).]

RI: *"First, we want to talk about adjustments you can make to improve your communication environment. As we discuss these strategies, keep in mind that depending on your situation, some of these can be changed, while others cannot. Whatever changes you can make are helpful. Some of these strategies may seem obvious, but they're often things that we don't stop to think about. Becoming more aware of how certain environmental factors may impact communication can be an important step in improving communication."*

[After all the environmental slides, ask them:

- *"Now that we've talked about some of these environmental strategies, let's discuss how they might apply to you.*
- *Where is a place or what is a situation that you find it challenging to communicate?*
- *In what way can you use these strategies to help you communicate in that situation?"*

Have a brief discussion on how to apply these strategies to their challenging situations.]

RI: *"Now that we have talked about ways you can adjust your environment, let's talk about some other strategies that could be helpful."*

[Proceed to Slide 12 to begin talking about the strategies.]

RI: *"These are some strategies that can be helpful to people with aphasia and their communication partners. They may address some of the challenges that you have mentioned. We have categorized these strategies into four areas: (1) adjusting language used, (2) gestures and body language, (3) writing and graphics, and (4) verifying understanding. We will now spend time discussing and practicing strategies related to these categories."*

[Ask the couple to choose a strategy to work on.]

[Once the couple has selected their first strategy, click on the hyperlink to go directly to the slides associated with that strategy in the presentation.]

[Read the cover slide with the sub strategies for the chosen strategy and then proceed to work through the slides for each sub strategy:

- Read the **definition** of each sub strategy.
- Encourage the couple to **observe** how that strategy is used in the video example.
 - Turn on closed captioning at the start of each video
- Watch the video example
- Have a brief **discussion** about what they observed/noticed/liked after each video.]

[After discussing each sub strategy, the “PRACTICE” slide will come up. At this point, the couple will practice the sub strategies they have just observed and learned:

- Ask them to think of a topic to discuss
 - If they cannot think of a topic, use a scenario from the CPT Topic Ideas list
- Allow them a few minutes to discuss the topic
- Display the list of sub strategies from the CPT booklet to them
- Encourage use of all, some, or one of the sub strategies
 - They can choose which strategies they want to target during the practice
- Do more than one practice to target different strategies if necessary]

[Return to the slide with all the main strategies by clicking on "X" at the top right of the practice slide.]

[Ask the couple to choose another strategy area to discuss and follow the same steps for the previous strategy. Continue to choose, discuss, and practice strategies until the session has lasted for approximately one hour.]

[At a natural stop time, close to the hour mark, go to the last two slides by clicking the “X” in the bottom right corner of the main strategy slide.]

[Present the couple with a handout and ask them to identify and then circle which strategies worked best or strategies they’d like to work on.]

RI: *"Based on the strategies you've chosen, let's make a specific goal to work on until our next session."*

[Help the couple create a specific goal for their communication as a couple, or a specific individual goal for each of them to work on before the next session.]

Return to **Session 1 Protocol**.