WHAT IS THE STARS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM?

We provide **hands-on training** and **support** for people with **aphasia** and their families in the use of **technology** in a **fun** and **social** environment. Technology may be used to **augment communication**, for home **practice**, for **connecting** with friends and family, or to **return to work** and **life**!

SOCIAL / TECHNOLOGY APHASIA / RETURN TO LIFE / SPEECH

We do this 3 ways:

Just YOU and ME
Individualized sessions with our STARS coordinator to help you and your family decide what technology is right for **you**. Talk to our coordinator about scheduling one or more sessions to learn about your options.

The Workshop
Our **group learning** and technology **sharing** sessions are facilitated by a trained professional. Learn more about how to use technology and improve communication in real-life situations in these friendly group sessions.

Group Outings
Bring your new skills and all your hard work **out into the world** where you really want to be! Use your technology supports in a **planned community outing** with other members and our team!

The
STARS
TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
invites you to reach for the stars!

Voices of Hope for Aphasia

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www.vohaphasia.org

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STARS
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Not all technology is the same!

There are many options out there, but they may not all be right for YOU!

The Voices of Hope for Aphasia STARS PROGRAM staff specialize in **aphasia** and *technology for aphasia*! We can help you find the right solution for you!

Technology comes in many shapes and sizes, from simple to complex. Here are just a **few examples** of what is available to you:

Low-tech:
(paper-based tools for pointing/selecting)

- *Pictures in an album or communication book* allow a person to point and establish topic or make decisions.
- *Alphabet boards* for those who can spell but not speak their words.
- *Rating Scales* and *Yes/No* to help communicate preference

Mid-tech:
(single-funtion technology)

- *Talking photo album* with recorded messages assigned to pictures
- *Cell phones* with limited buttons and functionality.
- *GPS tracking* devices for an emergency
- *Sketch pads* for those who can write but don't have paper on hand!
- *Specialized apps* for those who have specific needs such as help calculating a tip, or writing out checks.

High-tech:
(apps for tablet computers or AAC devices that have voice output–also known as "speech generating devices" or SGDs)

- *Proloquo2Go* (app for iOS from Assistiveware) allows users to create sentences and prerecoreded messages using symbols or letters.
- *TouchChat* (iOS app) "Communication Journey: Aphasia" — a vocabulary file containing features and vocabulary designed for individuals with aphasia.
- *Compass* (Windows and iOS app from TobiiDynavox) offers a stroke and traumatic brain injury (TBI) user profile.
- *Small Talk* (iOS apps from Lingraphica) free apps with male and female user versions.
- *Tapgram* (web-based application for use with every device) users can send messages to people in their lives by tapping on images and receive replies.
- *TalkTablet* (app for iOS, Android, Windows, and Kindle) simple to program, more affordable AAC with tech support.
- *TouchTalk* (device from Lingraphica) a "dedicated device" with specialized software designed for people with aphasia.
- *And many more!*

Contact us to schedule an appointment with our STARS Program Coordinator.
727.249.1953
jen@vohaphasia.org

Fears and Myths about technology

You may have heard or have fears about the negative impacts of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices. Let us dispel some of the most common myths.

Myth: "AAC will hinder the developmemt and use of natural speech."
Fact: AAC devices/technology does not stop the progression or recovery of natural speech, and research shows only benefit in the recovery of natural speech.

Myth: "AAC means the SLP is giving up on recovering my loved one's speech."
Fact: Family members are often concerned about this. This is an unwarrented fear. AAC provides a way for your loved one to communicate during their recovery to help them successfully communicate their wants, needs, and feelings.

Myth: "We don't need and AAC system if I understand what my loved one is saying."
Fact: You love your family member, and they are grateful that you understand them, but by using technology we help them to be as independent as possible. Technology may be the key to assisting them return to their previous daily living activities including socializing with friends and famly.

Myth: "If my loved one starts using AAC to communicate, he/she will continue to rely on it, instead of working to recover their verbal speech skills."
Fact: Active and purposeful engagement by your loved on is crucial to their recovery. An AAC system will assist you and them in their rehabilitation by allowing them to speak up for themselves.

(Romski, 2005)