

Communication Partner Training

What it is

Communication changes after a stroke or traumatic brain injury (TBI) can take away a person's autonomy and impact their ability to have good conversations. **Communication Partner Training** is an intervention that involves a client AND a significant other (called the communication partner). The communication partner learns to use positive communication supports. It can have a really positive impact on a person's life.

What the research says

Two high-quality randomised control trials have found that communication partner training results in improved communication outcomes for people after traumatic brain injury. Participants attended either group or individual therapy. Their conversations were compared before and after treatment. The research showed that the communication partners gained skills in providing communication feedback and support. By learning how to structure everyday communication, the person with TBI improved their participation in conversations.

What we do

First, we choose a communication partner to be involved in the training. This may be a spouse, sibling, child, friend (anyone significant in the person's life). Next, we set goals. We will record a conversation to identify strengths and weaknesses. Communication partner training can be done individually or in a group. The speech pathologist introduces effective communication strategies for the client and the communication partner, and we work together to master these in everyday life.

Contact us if you want to know more

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