



Primary Progressive Aphasia Treatments

Primary Progressive Aphasia isn't a diagnosis to run away from in speech therapy, but it's also not a diagnosis to use traditional "drill" language therapy. In fact, the evidence is promising for the benefit that personalized and person-centered therapy techniques can bring to those with PPA (and their families) in order to maintain (and even improve!) the **language that matters**. Thankfully, this approach is familiar if you have embraced the Life Participation Approach in speech therapy.

The research is young, but at this time, a best approach may be targeting personally-relevant communication needs while engaging spared cognitive-linguistic processes, and training self-cueing and communication partner strategies. The following interventions are behavioral treatments.

Verbal Expression

See further details about References, research summary, and treatment candidacy within the [Activity Studio](#). While this list is not all-inclusive, there are efforts made to include treatments that are current and can be integrated with personally-relevant goals.

[Attentive Reading and Constrained Summarization](#)

- Chronic fluent aphasia; primary progressive aphasia
- Improved word retrieval and informativeness of discourse

Rogalski, Y., Edmonds, L. A., Daly, V. R., & Gardner, M. J. (2013). Attentive Reading and Constrained Summarisation (ARCS) discourse treatment for chronic Wernicke's aphasia. *Aphasiology*, 27(10), 1232-1251.

[Generative Naming Treatment](#)

- Word retrieval

Beeson, P., et al. (2011). Positive effects of language treatment for the logopenic variant of primary progressive aphasia. *Journal of Molecular Neuroscience*, 45(3), 724-736.

[High-Tech AAC Supports](#)

- Fluent or nonfluent aphasia, brain injury, dementia, progressive communication disorders
- Improves ability and efficiency to participate in valued life situations

Fried-Oken, M., Rowland, C., Gibbons, C. (2010). Providing augmentative and alternative communication treatment to persons with progressive nonfluent aphasia. *Perspect Neurophysiol Neurogenic Speech Lang Disorders*, 20, 21–25.

[External Cognitive Supports](#) and [Communication Supports](#)

- Fluent or nonfluent aphasia, brain injury, dementia, progressive communication disorders
- Improves ability and efficiency to participate in valued life situations
- Consider best solutions for high-tech vs low-tech vs no-tech for the scenario

Honeycomb Speech Therapy: [Activity Studio](#) >> [Reference Library](#)

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Fried-Oken, M., Mooney, A., & Peters, B. (2015) Supporting communication for patients with neurodegenerative disease. *NeuroRehabilitation*, 37(1), 69-87.

Lexical Retrieval Cascade Treatment

- Mild-moderate stages
- Improved word retrieval

Henry, M., et al. (2019). Treatment for word retrieval in semantic and logopenic variants of primary progressive aphasia: immediate and long-term outcomes. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 62(8), 2723-2749.

A Novel Approach to Real-life communication: Novel Intervention in Aphasia (NARNIA)

- Fluent and nonfluent aphasia (mild and moderate); primary progressive aphasia
- Targets discourse-level communication (word retrieval, topic maintenance, informativeness in conversation)

Whitworth, A., Leitao, S., Cartwright, J., Webster, J., et al. (2015). NARNIA: a new twist to an old tale. A pilot RCT to evaluate a multilevel approach to improving discourse in aphasia. *Aphasiology*, 29(11), 1345-1382.

Script Training

- Fluent and nonfluent aphasia, acquired apraxia, and progressive aphasia
- Improves accuracy, production, speed of trained scripts

Henry, M. L. , et al. (2018). Retraining speech production and fluency in non-fluent/agrammatic primary progressive aphasia. *Brain*, 141(6), 1799–1814.

Semantic Feature Analysis

- Fluent and nonfluent aphasia due to stroke or brain injury; PPA
- Improves naming and amount of information relayed

Boyle, M. (2004). Semantic feature analysis treatment for anomia in two fluent aphasia syndromes. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 13(3), 236–249.

Cueing Strategies

- Goal is to teach the use of strategy to use spared skills in order to improve word-retrieval / communication.

Rising, K. (2014). Treatment for lexical retrieval in primary progressive aphasia. *Perspectives on Neurophysiology and Neurogenic Speech and Language Disorders*, 24(4), 137-144.

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For Communication Participation

Communication Supports (AAC)

- Fluent or nonfluent aphasia, brain injury, dementia, progressive communication disorders
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Fried-Oken, M., Mooney, A., & Peters, B. (2015) Supporting communication for patients with neurodegenerative disease. *NeuroRehabilitation*, 37(1), 69-87.

<https://www.ohsu.edu/sites/default/files/2018-11/Supporting-Communication-for-patients-with-neurodegenerative-disease.pdf>

Environmental Modifications

Snowden, J, Griffiths, H., & Neary, D. (1994). Semantic dementia: autobiographical contribution to preservation of meaning. *Cognitive neuropsychology*, 11, 265-288.

Spaced Retrieval / Errorless Learning Principles

- For training use of communication supports or strategies

Cathery-Goulart, M., de Silveira, A., Machado, T., Mansur, L., Parente, M., et al. (2013). Nonpharmacological interventions for cognitive impairments following primary progressive aphasia: a systematic review of the literature. *Dementia and Neuropsychologia*, 7(1), 122-131.

Personalized Context

- Personal and meaningful words, objects, pictures

Jokel, R. , Graham, N. L. , Rochon, E. , & Leonard, C. (2014). Word retrieval therapies in primary progressive aphasia. *Aphasiology*. Advanced online publication.

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Motor Speech Production

See further details about References, research summary, and treatment candidacy within the specific Treatment packet. While this list is not all-inclusive, there are efforts made to include treatments that are current and can be integrated with personally-relevant goals.

[Dr. Rosenbek's 8-Step Hierarchy / Integral Stimulation](#)

- Moderate or severe fluent aphasia
- Targets comprehension of spoken words

Utianski, R. (2020). *Primary Progressive Aphasia and Other Frontotemporal Dementias*. Plural Publishing.

[Oral Reading for Language in Aphasia](#)

- Targets reading comprehension, fluency, and confidence for trained passage

Beber, B. C., Berbert, M.C.B., Grawer, R.S., & Cardoso, M.C.A.F. (2018). Rate and rhythm control strategies for apraxia of speech in nonfluent primary progressive aphasia. *Dementia & Neuropsychologia*, 12(1), 80-84.

[Rhythmic Cueing](#)

- Improved fluency in connected speech, for rate / rhythm control

Beber, B. C., Berbert, M.C.B., Grawer, R.S., & Cardoso, M.C.A.F. (2018). Rate and rhythm control strategies for apraxia of speech in nonfluent primary progressive aphasia. *Dementia & Neuropsychologia*, 12(1), 80-84.

[Script Training](#)

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Primary Progressive Aphasia Treatments

Conversation Partner Training

These resources are taken from the stroke-induced aphasia research. See further details about References, research summary, and treatment candidacy within the specific Treatment packet.

[Promoting Aphasics' Communication Effectiveness](#)

- Fluent or nonfluent aphasia
- Improves sending / receiving messages, and strategy use

Davis, G. A., & Wilcox, M. J. (1981). Incorporating parameters of natural conversation in aphasia treatment: PACE therapy. In R. Chapey (Ed.), *Language intervention strategies in adult aphasia* (pp. 169–193). Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins. <http://eprints-prod-05.library.pitt.edu/567/1/10-28.pdf>

[Conversational Coaching](#)

- Fluent or nonfluent aphasia
- Improves sending / receiving messages, and strategy use

Hopper T., Holland A., & Rewega M. (2002). Conversational coaching: Treatment outcomes and future directions. *Aphasiology*, 16, 745–61.

Supported Conversation for Adults With Aphasia (SCA™) by the Aphasia Institute

<https://www.aphasia.ca/communicative-access-sca/>

Better Conversations for Aphasia by Suzanne Beeke

<https://extendstore.ucl.ac.uk/product?catalog=UCLXBCA>