Title: How the Use of Life-Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) Improved Outcomes in Chronic Aphasia

Authors: Kathryn Atkinson, M.A., CCC-SLP/BC-ANCDS (gowar1ka@cmich.edu) & Megan Medler, B.A.A.

Overview of learning outcomes:
1. Define LPAA
2. Discuss the authors’ conclusions
3. Identify possible implications for practice

Defining and discussion of concepts:
The authors will display when impairment-based goals were developed, therapy outcomes were poor. The use of LPAA provided the client control over his desired therapy activities even with chronic auditory comprehension problems. Qualitative statements expressed by the client were significantly more positive when using LPAA vs. impairment-based goals.

Developing goals-exercise:
The authors demonstrate how the use of a impairment-based vs. participation-based approach, revealed vastly different outcomes, using the LPAA. The "LPAA places the life concerns of those affected by aphasia at the center of all decision making" (Chapey et al; ASHA), and empowers the person with aphasia to consider real-life goals important to him/her.

How to use concepts in day to day work:
Use of LPAA focuses on client-centered goals. Clients become their own advocates for desired communication goals, in order to participate more satisfactorily in daily life events and communicative situations. In turn, quality of life (QOL) and communication confidence is enhanced.

Summary:
We hypothesized the use of the LPAA might be minimally successful for our client with receptive aphasia, since he had attempted to learn lip-reading in the past through structured commercial materials, with minimal success. However, when the idea of lip-reading became client-driven, motivation improved and generalization of skills to daily life occurred.

Questions and Answers:
In order to measure QOL and activity-based participation outside of the therapy room, a modified Communication Confidence Rating Scale for Aphasia (CCRSA; Cherney et al) is presented each session to complete upon return to the next therapy session, and measures 3 key areas: talking with people in the community: the clinician; and family/friends. Qualitative data revealed significant improvement in QOL and communication competence/confidence.

References:


How the Use of Life-Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) Improved Outcomes in Chronic Aphasia


