Using the People Describer Chart

The People Describer Chart is used for people with communication difficulties to try and describe who they are talking about. The chart can also be used by those working with people with communication difficulties.

The chart is divided into several sections. The green shaded areas are the main questions that can be used to try and get information. The person with communicative difficulties may be able to point to the relevant icons to make themselves understood. Otherwise someone can go through the various options with them to try and find the person they want to talk about.

This option gives you the option to talk about family, friends or helpers. It can help put the listener in the right context when the person with communication difficulties is trying to describe someone.

Some people with speech difficulties may be able to spell. Using the alphabet on the chart they can spell out the name of the person they want to talk about. Alternatively they could just point to the first letter of the person’s name as they attempt to pronounce it. This gives the listener an extra cue, and research shows that knowing the first sound of a word, helps the listener cue into the word.

This section can be used to describe people - age, hair colour, sex, height, weight and if they wear glasses.

If the subject does not fall under the category of friends, family or helper, then the communicator can try and describe what they do. If speech is an issue, try some sign or gesture.
To learn more about Stroke/CVA, aids and strategies to enhance communication, speech and cognition, you can read about and purchase books on our website www.icommunicatetherapy.com. Click this link to see our online Resource Centre

**Book Shop**

**Suggested reading:**

*Living With Stroke: A Guide for Families* by Richard C Senelick and Karla Dougherty

*Brain, Heal Thyself: A Caregiver’s New Approach to Recovery from Stroke, Aneurysm, And Traumatic Brain Injuries* by Madonna Siles and Lawrence J. Beuret

*Peeling the Onion: Reversing the Ravages of Stroke* by Robin Robinson


*Life After Stroke: The Guide to Recovering Your Health and Preventing Another Stroke* by Joel Stein, Julie K. Silver, and Elizabeth Pegg Frates

*After Stroke* by David M. Hinds

*Family Guide to Surviving Stroke & Communications Disorders* by Dennis C. Tanner

*Stronger After Stroke: Your Roadmap to Recovery* by Peter G. Levine


*Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation* by Joel Stein

*My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist’s Personal Journey* by Jill Bolte Taylor

*Talking About Aphasia: Living With Loss of Language After Stroke* by Susie Parr, Sally Byng, Sue Gilpin, and Chris Ireland

*Aphasia Inside Out* by Susie Parr, Judith Duchan, and Carole Pound

*Aphasiology: Disorders and Clinical Practice* (2nd Edition) by G. Albyn Davis

*Aphasia Therapy Workshop: Current Approaches to Aphasia Therapy--Principles and Applications* by Jacqueline Stark, Nadine Martin, and Ruth Fink

*Beyond Aphasia: Therapies For Living With Communication Disability* by Carole Pound, Susie Parr, Jayne Lindsay, and Celia Woolf