



Canadian Occupational
Performance Measure

Tip #19 How Can the COPM be Used with People with Aphasia?



Use an aphasia-friendly, visually supported communication approach in collaboration with SLPs to match the person's communication strengths and needs.



Tailor and simplify the COPM process while checking comprehension throughout. Create a quiet, comfortable environment and allow extra time.



Use multimodal supports such as gestures, drawing, writing, visual cues, photos, activity cards, and accessible rating scales (large-print, icons, emoticons). Limit choices and use simplified sorting tasks or large-print/visual scales to reduce cognitive load.



Rephrase questions as needed, confirm understanding often (especially performance vs. satisfaction ratings), adjust pacing, and involve proxies only when necessary.

Reference:

Escher A, Gandhi A, Berger S. Exploration of collaborative goal setting in occupational therapy for adults with aphasia. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*. 2024;88(1):45-53. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03080226241278087>