Life Participation Approach to Aphasia:
A Statement of Values for the Future (Review)
Articles at a Glance · Pathways for Aphasia

Chapey, R., Duchan, J., Elman, R. J., Garcia, L. J., Kagan, A., Lyon, J. G. and Simmons Mackie, N. (2000). Life Participation Approach to Aphasia: A Statement of Values for the Future. *The ASHA Leader* and *www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/LPAA/*.

Background Information
The Life Participation Approach to Aphasia" (LPAA) emphasizes speech-language therapy as a support for meeting both immediate and longer-term life goals. A real-life goal shortly after a stroke might include effective communication with medical professionals. A real-life goal for the same individual later in the recovery process might be to return to a volunteer position. Since communication involves expressing and understanding messages as well as establishing and maintaining social links, both goals are appropriate in speech-language therapy.

Key Findings

• The authors developed LPAA from four basic concepts:
 	
    1) Functional and pragmatic approaches to aphasia treatment.
    2) Human rights issues and consumers' ability to set their own goals.
    3) Emphasis on competence and inclusion rather than deficits.
    4) Changes in health care reimbursement and service delivery.
 	
 By combining these concepts, the LPAA extends the effectiveness of any one concept on its own.
 	
 • LPAA makes two major changes to current speech-language service delivery:
 	
    1. The creation of therapy goals becomes consumer-driven rather than therapist-driven. People with aphasia, their family members, and caregivers become the

center of all decision making.

2. The focus of therapy becomes broader than ever before. With the overall goal of re-engagement in life, therapy activities must lead towards a more rapid return to an active life.

- Re-engaging in life requires changes on the part of the person with aphasia as well as the communication partners. For example, a technique designed to overcome issues with word finding will not be successful if the people in the environment do not support its use in daily life.

- LPAA supports the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) to help PWA meet both immediate and longer-term goals. The PWA can use AAC to participate in activities and establish or maintain social links.

Applying the Findings with Tobii Dynavox Aphasia Pages

The Tobii Dynavox Aphasia Pages compliment the LPAA philosophy. In both, there is a desire to provide supports for both immediate success and future growth. The Aphasia Pages provide a variety of communication tools for successful participation in a variety of life's activities, such as:

- **Topics:** Topics support successful communication. The visual image may be used to trigger speech, clarify speech, or to access related messages to speak. Topics can be presented in either a visual scene or grid format.

- **Shared Communication Space:** Both users and communication partners have access to a variety of compensatory strategies for maintaining successful interactions. Both participants can use the Visual Scenes and additional compensatory tools (such as the Whiteboard and Rating Scale) for co-construction of meaning and to support expression and comprehension.

- **Whiteboard:** The Whiteboard is one of the most easily accessible and broadly applicable communicative tools in the Tobii Dynavox Aphasia Pages. It provides a shared communication space for both the PWA and the communication partner to increase their participation in and understanding of the conversational topic through interactive drawing. Individuals can store and retrieve previous drawings for use as a reference.

- **Rating Scale:** This tool supports written choice conversation as facilitated by the communication partner in a variety of conversations and settings. It also provides

access to a pain scale that is familiar to many of us.

- **Word Lists:** Word Lists are topical with semantic categories (e.g., food, drink, transportation, actions, etc.) that are linked to the Toolbar. The PWA can use the Word Lists to produce single words within a topical interaction or to clarify/ extend the current conversation, topic, or message. The Word Lists are customizable; they can be used with or without symbols and sorted alphabetically or by favorites.

- **Keyboard:** The keyboard can be QWERTY, alphabetical, or AEIOU. The PWA can use the Keyboard to spell a word letter-by-letter or to self-cue or cue the communication partner to the first letter or letters of a word (like the alphabet board). If appropriate, an individual may also choose a Keyboard with Word Prediction that will predict a word as typed (with or without symbols).

- **QuickFires:** QuickFires are messages that allow quick interaction in any conversation, at any time, and in any place (e.g., Yes, No, Wait, What? Good, Bad, OK, Help, etc.). Individuals can edit QuickFires and remove any phrases they do not want to use.

- **Photo Album and Camera:** Both tools take and store photos of remnants (e.g., ticket, brochures, menus, daily or special events, etc.) for use as Topic Pictures, photo albums, or pictures on buttons.