

APHASIA GROUP

The Aphasia Group of Middle Tennessee is a communication-based group that focuses on improving communication through supported conversation. Group members, with the support of Speech-Language Pathology graduate student interns in the Master's of Science program at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, are provided the necessary resources and encouragement to use their communication strategies to promote conversational participation. All students are supervised by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist.

WHEN:

This weekly program offers three options:

Thursday Group Day A full-day schedule of activities (9:30 am - 4:00 pm)

Thursday Big Group Session Large, interactive group discussion (2:45 pm – 4:00 pm)

Monday Half Day A half-day schedule of activities (10:00 am - 2:00 pm)



WHERE:

Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute
Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center
1215 21st Avenue South Suite 9211
Nashville, TN 37232-8590
Phone: 615-936-5040

"We value the aphasia group and feel a forever bond with group members."

WHAT:

Aphasia is a language disorder most commonly caused by stroke, but this language problem may also result from traumatic brain injury, brain tumors, or a degenerative brain condition known as Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA). People with aphasia may have difficulty expressing themselves and understanding what others say, as well as difficulties with reading and writing. Aphasia affects up to four million people of all ages.



Communication problems often result in social and community withdrawal or isolation. It is important to remember that aphasia is not a memory disorder or a disorder of intelligence.

APHASIA GROUP of MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute
Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center



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HISTORY

The Aphasia Group of Middle Tennessee started in February 2004 as a unique community group to provide a communication-rich and supportive environment for individuals with aphasia and their families. Additionally, it provided an educational opportunity for future speech-language pathologists to learn about living with aphasia and life participation.

Through growing educational and community support, the Aphasia Group of Middle Tennessee continually adds new programs to meet the needs of the aphasia community.



Aphasia Group of Middle Tennessee follows the Davidson County/Metro Schools inclement weather policy for snow and icy conditions.

“Aphasia Group means so much to my mother and me. A special group of survivors.”

PROGRAM

Partners In Communication (PIC) Sessions:

Individual sessions targeting one’s speech, language, listening, reading and writing abilities during specific conversationally-based tasks. Sessions provide the opportunity to further develop resources to promote communication effectiveness and increase conversational participation.



Book Clubs:

Participants are provided with the necessary tools and strategies to make reading accessible and pleasurable. Weekly chapter discussions promote communication exchanges and expression of personal opinions.



Current Events Group:

Small group of individuals discussing today’s top news. Communication partners assist with article review and development of story presentation.



Big Group:

A large interactive group with a preplanned discussion format. Weekly topics are preselected by the group. With the support of communication partners, group members participate in the discussion, sharing their thoughts and opinions.



Executive Group:

Small groups working collaboratively on language-based activities. Additionally, members of this group participate in specific committee-based discussions and leadership. (Mondays and Thursdays)



Technology:

Throughout the day, group members are introduced to and encouraged to use a variety of programs. Audiobooks, software programs, and communication apps for iPads, laptops, and phones are used.



Music And Arts:

Group members experience alternative means of self-expression and community bonding through choir rehearsals and performances, music appreciation, discussions and accessible art projects. (Mondays)



Anchor Club:

Group excursions into the community to appreciate the culture of middle Tennessee, spread awareness about aphasia, and practice functional communication in the real world.



PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION (PIC) SESSIONS

One-on-one sessions optimizing individual communication goals



BOOK CLUB

Improving reading comprehension and communication through leisure reading



CURRENT EVENTS

Small group conversation sharing international, national, local, health, entertainment and sports news



BIG GROUP CONVERSATIONS

Large interactive group discussions



EXECUTIVE GROUP

Planning and organizing for the group, nurturing leadership abilities



TECHNOLOGY

Practice with software, apps, and smartphones



MUSIC AND ARTS

Self-expression through art projects, choral singing and music appreciation



ANCHOR CLUB

Outings to experience culture, community and communicating in the real world

