

The Speech-Language Pathologist's Role in Brain Injury Rehabilitation

COGNITIVE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS TREATED BY SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (source: Treatment Guidelines for Speech-Language Pathologists, document prepared by Ontario Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Association)

1. Auditory Comprehension / Information Processing

- perception / discrimination / aural rehabilitation
- comprehension:
 - vocabulary
 - single words
 - commands / instructions
 - grammatical complexity
 - abstract language comprehension (e.g., inferences)
- paragraphs
- discourse
- procedural
- narrative
- conversational
- persuasive
- descriptive
- lengthy (e.g., lectures)
- speed of information processing
- retention and recall

2. Verbal Expression

- speech (e.g., articulation, phonology, motor planning)
- voice / resonance
- word-retrieval
- vocabulary selection
- fluency
- sentence construction
- verbal reasoning (e.g., making decisions, developing a rationale, debating, negotiating, arguing facts vs. opinion)
- discourse planning and organization
- factual content
- inferential content
- idiomatic content
- discourse:
 - procedural
 - narrative
 - persuasive

- descriptive
- lengthy (e.g., presentations)
- alternative and augmentative communication

3. Reading

- perception / discrimination
- oral reading / decoding
- reading comprehension
- vocabulary
- single words
- commands / instructions
- grammatical complexity (morphological, syntactic and morpho-syntactic)
- abstract language comprehension (e.g., inferences)
- paragraphs
- text
- procedural
- narrative
- conversational
- persuasive
- descriptive
- lengthy (e.g., books)
- speed of information processing
- retention and recall

4. Writing

- spelling / punctuation / general writing conventions
- written word-retrieval
- vocabulary selection
- grammar / sentence construction
- written text planning and organization
- factual content
- inferential content
- idiomatic content
- text:
 - procedural
 - narrative
 - persuasive

- descriptive
- lengthy (e.g., essays)

5. Social Communication/Pragmatics

- turn-taking
- topic initiation
- topic shift
- topic maintenance
- conversational repair
- information load
- cohesion
- coherence
- eye-contact
- understanding and using intonation contours
- understanding and using facial expression / body language / proxemics
- understanding and using contexts (e.g., social, physical, linguistic and non-verbal)
- knowledge base / schemata (e.g., social conventions for greetings, social situational rules)
- social cognition / self-awareness
- overall awareness of the communication partners' needs

6. Attention / Concentration

Focused attention, Selective attention, Alternating Attention, Divided attention

7. Orientation

- passive (person, place, time)
- active (circumstances, passage of time)
- schematic (directions, location)

8. Memory / Recall

- verbal memory
- new learning
- working memory
- short-term memory
- long-term memory
- speed and efficiency

9. Organization

- categorization
- association

- classification
- analysis of relevant information
- recognizing relationships
- sequencing

10. Reasoning & Problem-Solving

- convergent thinking
- divergent thinking
- deductive reasoning
- inductive reasoning
- sequencing, classification
- mental flexibility
- identifying problems
- proposing alternative solutions
- evaluating alternatives
- implementing solution
- evaluating effects

11. Executive Function & Metacognition

- initiation
- organization
- goal formulation and selection
- planning
- sequencing
- execution
- behavioural regulation
- awareness of deficits
- self-monitoring
- self-evaluation