

Empowering Persons with Aphasia through Photovoice

WHAT IS PHOTOVOICE?

- Photovoice is a participatory research strategy that utilizes photography as a tool for personal and community change (Wang & Burris, 1997).
- Photovoice has three primary goals:
 1. To enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns
 2. To promote critical dialogue and knowledge about important issues through large and small group discussion of photographs
 3. To reach policymakers to effect real and meaningful change
- Photovoice allows people in a community to express the concerns and issues most important and relevant to them through photographs.

PHOTOVOICE AND APHASIA

- The loss of previously acquired language abilities can have far reaching implications on an individual's life and wellbeing
- Persons with aphasia (PWA) may struggle to express the complexities of their lives due to language impairment.
- By giving PWA the means to express themselves through photographs, Photovoice can provide a unique opportunity for them to share an intimate look into the impact that aphasia has had on their lives

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this study was to explore the benefits of using Photovoice methodology in PWA
- Additionally, this project served as a training tool for speech pathology graduate student clinicians, providing them with clinical knowledge and skills necessary when working with PWA.

PARTICIPANTS

- Six persons with aphasia
- Participants were all at least six months post stroke
- Participants were all cognitively able to participate in the study

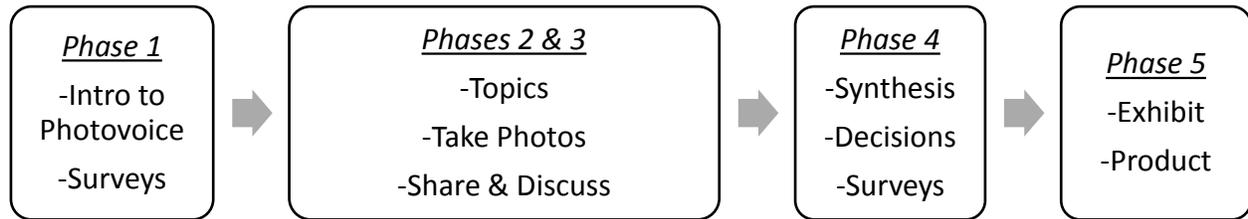
METHOD

- The participants met once a week for eight weeks.
- Graduate student clinicians participated as group facilitators.

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR PHOTOVOICE:

- What is it like to live with aphasia?
- What in my life or community has helped me in my healing from aphasia?
- What in my life or community has slowed down my healing from aphasia?
- What do I want to tell other people about living with aphasia?
- How is my life different now from how it was before? What is better? What is worse?
- What are my hopes for the future? And what might help me get there?

PROJECT TIMELINE



<p>PHASE 1:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants spent the first two weeks of the study being introduced to the methodology of Photovoice. • The participants were also provided and completed forms for informed consent, photograph consent, and pre-surveys.
<p>PHASE 2 & 3:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each week, the participants took photographs during their daily lives that captured a group-generated topic relevant to aphasia. • During each session, they shared their photos and reflected on information or feelings they wanted to share about the photos. • At the end of each weekly session, the group identified themes that emerged from the discussion and set the topic for the next week.
<p>PHASE 4:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last two weeks of the study, the participants synthesized and summarized the photographs/thoughts from each session. • The participants worked together to identify the purpose and format of how their Photovoice artifacts would be exhibited.
<p>PHASE 5:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos, themes, and quotes are shared with the target audience to educate others about what it means to live with aphasia.