

Introduction

In *Advanced Descripto-Cards*®, 20 functional objects (nouns) are presented that serve as a basis for language intervention. Each noun is presented at four levels. Language is presented in a series of “small steps”: first as a single word, then a simple sentence focusing on location, then a simple sentence focusing on action, and finally in sentences building from a simple statement to a complex level of discussion. This hierarchy allows increased flexibility in assessing a patient's progress and in making determinations for task advancement. For example, it is easy to determine at each step whether the client is responding better to pictures alone, or to the word cards alone, or whether combinations of pictures and words provide more success. Each task has suggestions for variations and modifications, which ensures increased flexibility to meet the individual patient's needs.

Once an aphasic syndrome has been diagnosed and deficit areas identified, treatment falls into four basic areas. The areas of treatment are: auditory comprehension, verbal expression, cognitive-linguistic tasks, and reading comprehension. Graphic expression and money management also may be areas of treatment; however, these areas are not specifically addressed in this kit.

A functional intervention approach is becoming more and more popular due to the reduction in funding available for extended therapy. Emphasis is placed on effectiveness of treatment—specifically, functional outcomes. This kit was

developed in light of these trends to enable clinicians to meet the rehabilitation needs of their patients.

The 20 objects are divided into four categories: communication, transportation, household items, and food. These categories were chosen for their functional values. The categories also allow the cards to be used with a variety of populations other than those with aphasia. Tasks that stimulate cognition are included in levels C, E, F, and G, using the same stimuli.