BACKGROUND

It has been suggested that balancing ‘technical skills’ with a ‘human approach’ may promote a client-centred approach to treatment and may be more consistent with what clients see as important in rehabilitation. This poster draws on a co-autoethnography that explored how a philosophy of client-centred practice which explicitly incorporated both ‘technical’ and ‘caring’ skills informed clinical practice with people with acquired brain injury. It reflects on how this approach to therapy could inform speech pathology practice with people with aphasia.

WHO is this person? What do THEY need?

Seeing active and mindful listening as a therapeutic tool and valid intervention in its own right

Viewing our role differently, working as supporters and facilitators rather than expert providers

Supporting clients to prioritise what is meaningful

Allowing time to get to know the person and their story; allowing time for them to get to know us

WHAT QUESTIONS DOES THIS RAISE FOR APHASIA THERAPISTS?

What is our philosophy of practice? Could a philosophy of client-centredness better facilitate engagement in rehabilitation?

Are we listening to understand what the person is saying or are we also listening to understand and get to know the person – who they are and what their story is?

Do we value skills such as listening, relating, engaging and caring in our practice? Do we see them as valid, valued interventions in their own right?

REFERENCES