

# COMMUNICATION CHARACTERISTICS OF BRAIN-INJURED ADULTS

## RIGHT HEMISPHERE DAMAGE

1. Receptive Language
  - a. Difficulty handling complex ideational materials.
  - b. Failure to grasp overall gestalt, difficulty integrating ideas, lacks full understanding.
  - c. Difficulty with drawing inference, morals, failure to “get the joke” or understand connotations of common words.
  - d. Focus on insignificant details.
  - e. Difficulty interpreting emotion and emotional content.
2. Expressive Language
  - a. Copious, incessant, rambling speech.
  - b. Off color comments, humor frequently inappropriate.
  - c. Tendency to confabulate.
  - d. Lack of intonation, facial expression, gestures.
  - e. Failure to complete one idea before continuing to the next.
3. Left side neglect.
4. Quick, impulsive behavior.
5. Not aware of cyclical time, seasons.
6. Difficulty recognizing objects and their functions, shapes and patterns. Gets lost easily, even in familiar surroundings.
7. Poor judgment, failure to recognize problems and possible solutions.
8. Failure to accomplish assigned activities, inability to complete tasks requiring sustained effort and attention.

Kit Roberts, 1982

## LEFT HEMISPHERE DAMAGE

1. Receptive Language
  - a. Difficulty comprehending speech, words, conversation. Doesn't recognize names of objects, colors, body parts, people, shapes, etc.
  - b. Difficulty comprehending written alphabet, words, sentences, paragraphs.
  - c. Difficulty reading signs, instructions.
  - d. Failure to recognize meaning of gestures used to communicate.
  - e. Can't follow verbal commands, directions, orders.
2. Expressive Language
  - a. Very little speech, doesn't initiate speech. Difficulty making spoken sounds, words, sentences, conversations.
  - b. Difficulty writing alphabet, words, sentences, paragraphs.
  - c. Difficulty remembering names of things and definitions.
  - d. Often says a few words over and over, often curse words.
  - e. Speech lacks rhythm.
3. Right side neglect.
4. Slow, cautious behavior. Difficulty planning.
5. Not aware of linear time: seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, years.
6. Poor math skills. Doesn't recognize numbers, numerals. Basic facts and ability to compute (+, -, x) impaired.
7. Negative attitude.
8. Failure to initiate activities.