Conversation Partner Project

WHAT IS IT?

This is a joint project between Connect, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) (Clinical School of Speech and Language Studies) and Speech and Language Therapy Practice Tutors. It aims to provide people with aphasia the opportunity to engage in conversation. Speech and Language Therapy Students from TCD will have weekly meetings with people with aphasia (PWA) in person for no more than one hour a week for a ten-week period, during the college year. Students will not be providing therapy but will be providing the opportunity for engaging conversations.

Students are supervised through fortnightly tutorials with practice tutors.

BENEFITS FOR PWA	BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS
• Opportunity to engage in supported conversation while meeting new people.	• Learn to have a conversation with someone with a communication difficulty.
• Increase confidence in having conversations.	• Develop confidence.
• Develop resources that can be used with others during conversations.	• Develop resources that can be used with others during conversation.
• Be more in charge.	• See the person behind the communication disorder.
• Reduce social isolation.	• Increased professionalism.
• Become an expert in their own communication.	• First-hand experience with aphasia.

WHO CAN BE REFERRED?

Anyone with aphasia who would benefit from supported conversation and can engage in the same can be referred. People with cognitive deficits which impact severely on their ability to engage in conversation may not be suitable. If you are unsure of the appropriateness, please contact the email listed below. PWA can simultaneously be involved in a therapy program and benefit from the Conversation Program, however active therapy is not a requirement for referral.

HOW TO REFER

Review the 'Information Leaflet and Consent' form with the client and keep a signed copy on file. Complete the online referral form linked in the email or on the website.

YOUR INVOLVMENT	OUR INVOVLEMENT
1. Refer with client consent.	1. Receive referrals and match to a student profile.
2. Conduct a visit to introduce students to PWA.	2. Contact referral source and provide details of match.
3. Mid-programme follow-up contact with PWA to obtain feedback regarding satisfaction and progress of programme.	3. Conduct fortnightly tutorials based on student feedback.
4. Evaluation at end of program (will be supplied).	4. Point of contact throughout program.
	5. Receive final feedback from students.

NEXT STEP

Can you think of anyone who would benefit from this program? If so, start referring.

CONTACT DETAILS

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