Changes in Communication
What Changes Can You Expect?

- Speech becomes slurred
- Speech may be:
  - Spastic
  - Ataxic
- Voice may be softer

› Usually a combination of the above features

Multi-Modal Communication
Definition

• EVERYTHING an individual uses to communicate or enhance communication
• Different strategies needed for different situations
• Different strategies need for different communication partners
• Strategies and tools combined to meet a wide variety of communication functions
• Uses full communication capabilities of each individual

Communicative Functions

What is the goal when you communicate?

• Make observations
• Express thoughts
• Describe feelings
• Identify needs
"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways"

Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

• How many ways can you say “I love you”?

Say it

Je t’aime.

Ti amo.
Use a Gesture

Use Sign Language
Facial Expression
Write or Type it

Other Examples of “I love you”
Strategies for Communication

Focus on Communication Function

- What do you want to say?
- Get the attention of your listener
- Face the person you are talking to
- Identify your topic first
- Use short sentences or phrases
- Consider different ways to communicate the message
Communication Partner Strategies

- Reduce/eliminate background noise
- Ask yes and no questions
- Provide choices rather than asking open-ended questions
- Provide extra time to respond
- Encourage use of alternative/multi-modal strategies
- Verify you understood what was said
- Ensure your hearing is as good as possible

When to See a Speech-Language Pathologist
Speech-Language Pathology

◊ Seek an evaluation when communication breakdowns first begin to occur

Focus of Therapy:

➢ Maximize natural speech skills
➢ Identify multi-modal communication strategies & strengths
➢ Evaluation/training in augmentative and/or alternative communication strategies

Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) Options

• Personal amplifiers
• Word or picture boards
• Computerized communication systems