

ECoLoGiC-Tx for aphasia

What is ECoLoGiC-Tx?

- Expanding Communication and Language Opportunities Generated in Conversation Treatment (Leaman et al., 2026)
- Moderate to severe aphasia
- Improves verbal expression, auditory comprehension, reading, and writing
- Individual or group therapy

How are sessions structured?

- The therapy session consists of two phases:
 - Therapeutic Conversation
 - Therapeutic Repair.

Therapeutic Conversation

- Social conversation is initiated by either the SLP or the patient.
- Engage in real conversation in a naturalistic way until the patient is unable to communicate an idea effectively by any means.
- Tips:
 - SLPs should not interview, teach, or quiz the patient.
 - Allow plenty of time for the patient to communicate.
 - Take data for goals during this phase only.

Therapeutic Repair

There are seven repair strategies, in order from least support to most support. Always start with #1 and move from least support to most support, as needed. You can skip repair steps.

The seven steps for Therapeutic Repair

1. Always tell the patient what you understood. Make it visual. Write it down or make a line drawing or a diagram.
2. General Comment: ask our patient to tell us more.
3. Request specific information: "Who was there?", "Where was this happening?", etc.
4. Request description: ask our patient to describe that's happening.
5. Request nonverbal communication: Is there another way you can tell me?
6. Request specific nonverbal communication: "Can you draw it?", "Can you point to it?", etc.
7. Give a choice: "Is it [x] or [y]?"

Learn more about ECoLoGiC-Tx

- Baar, S. (Host). (2026, January 15). *Improving conversation in aphasia: What is "ECoLoGiC-Tx" all about?* (Podcast episode 23). In Speech Scope: A Medbridge Podcast.
<https://www.medbridge.com/educate/courses/improving-conversation-in-aphasia-what-is-ecologic-tx-all-about-marion-leaman-sarah-baar>
- Leaman, M. C., Edmonds, L. A., Oleson, J. J., & Williams, K. N. (2026). *Improving language in individual conversation-level therapy: Group and individual results of ECoLoGiC treatment for people with moderate and severe aphasia*. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 35(2), 476–499.
https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2025_AJSLP-25-00113