



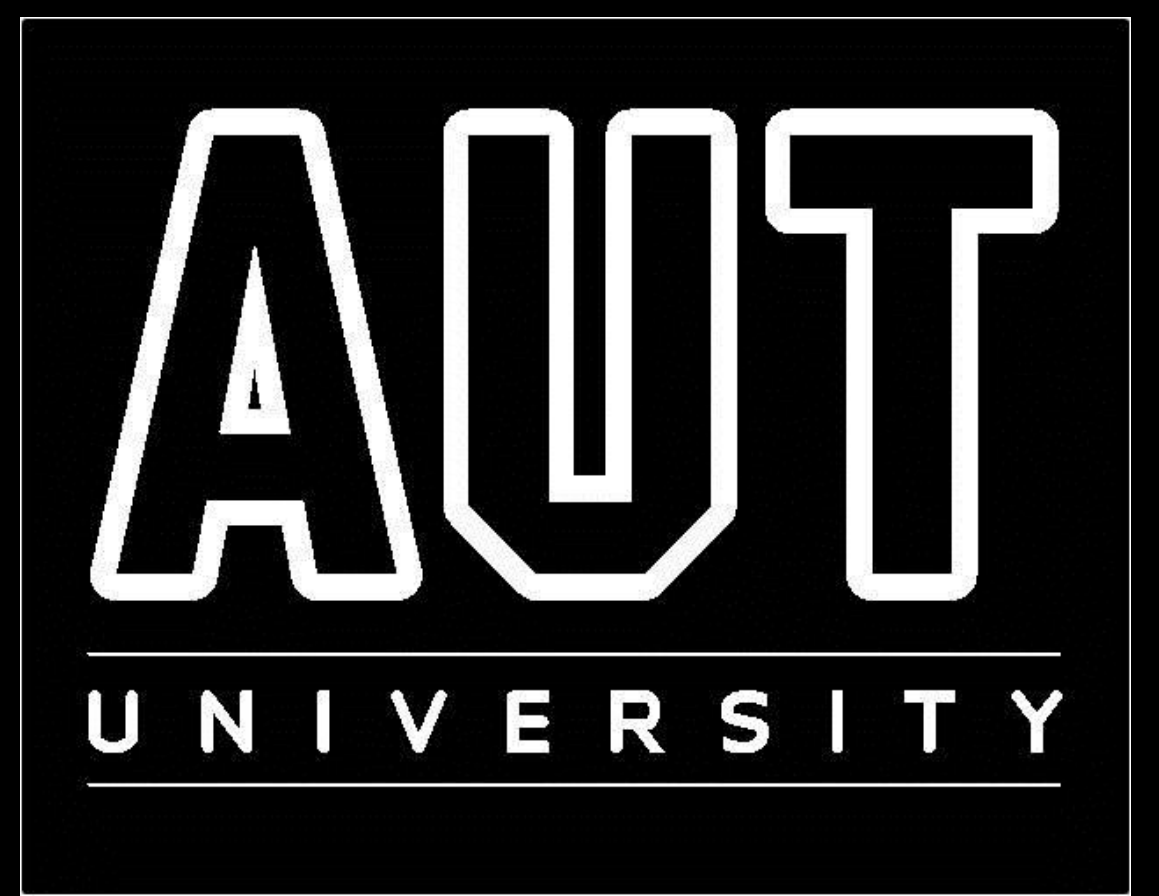
# Advancing Speech Pathology Practice: Lessons from an Autoethnography

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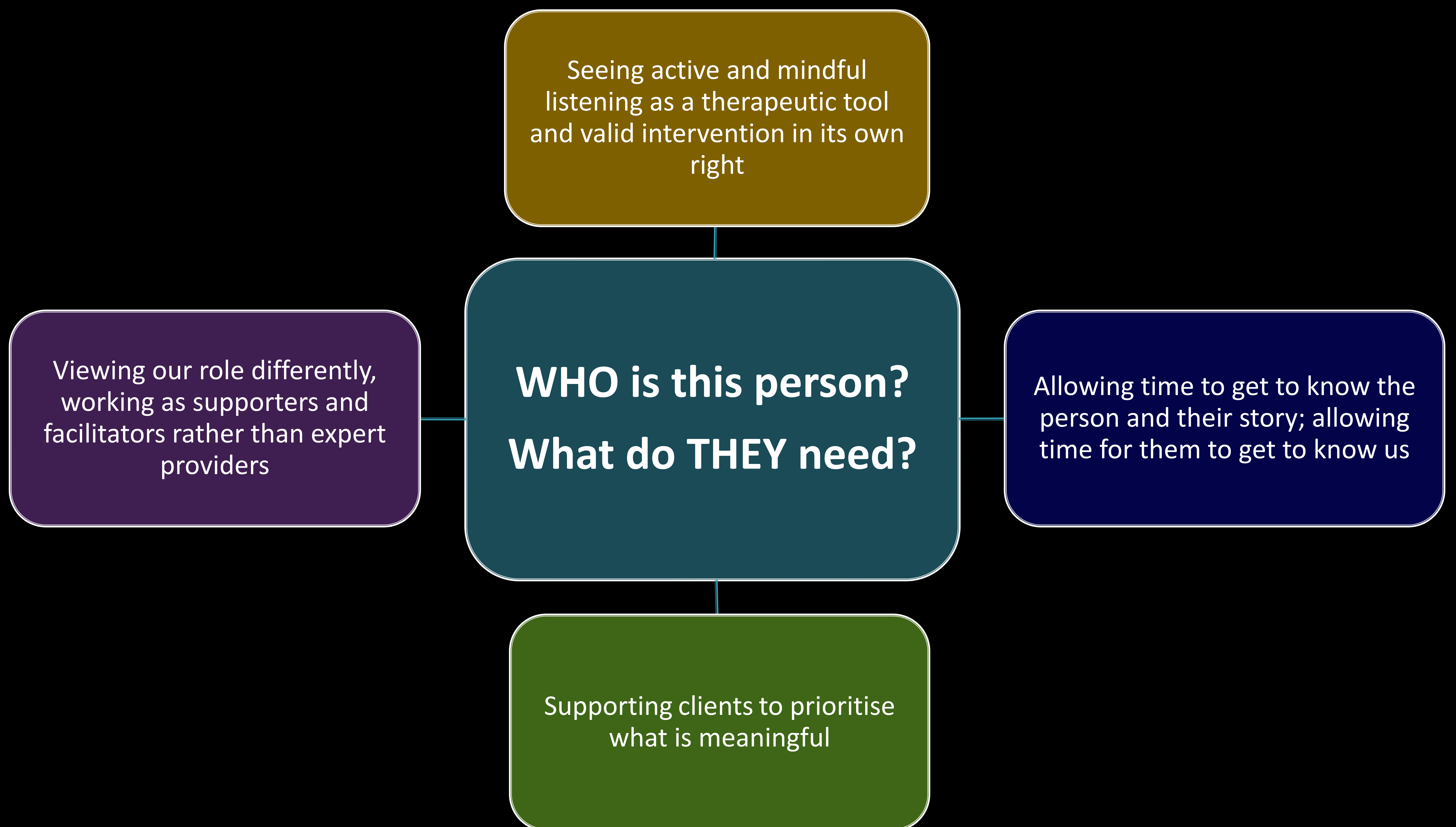
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## BACKGROUND

It has been suggested that balancing ‘technical skills’<sup>1</sup> with a ‘human approach’<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup>. It reflects on how this approach to therapy could inform speech pathology practice with people with aphasia.



We believe that having an underlying practice philosophy of client-centredness, of focusing on the person we were working with and getting to know them and their story was central to this new way of working. This permeated the way in which we worked with our clients, resulting in a shift to ‘being with’ rather than ‘doing to’.

## 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

1. Hammell, K. W (2006) *Perspectives on disability and rehabilitation: Contesting assumptions, challenging practice*. Philadelphia, PA: Churchill Livingstone
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3. Bright, F.A.S., Boland, P., Rutherford, S., Kayes, N.M. & McPherson, K.M. (2012). Implementing a client-centred approach in rehabilitation: An autoethnography. *Disability & Rehabilitation*. 34(12): 997-1004