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Lessons Learned Working With A Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Survivor

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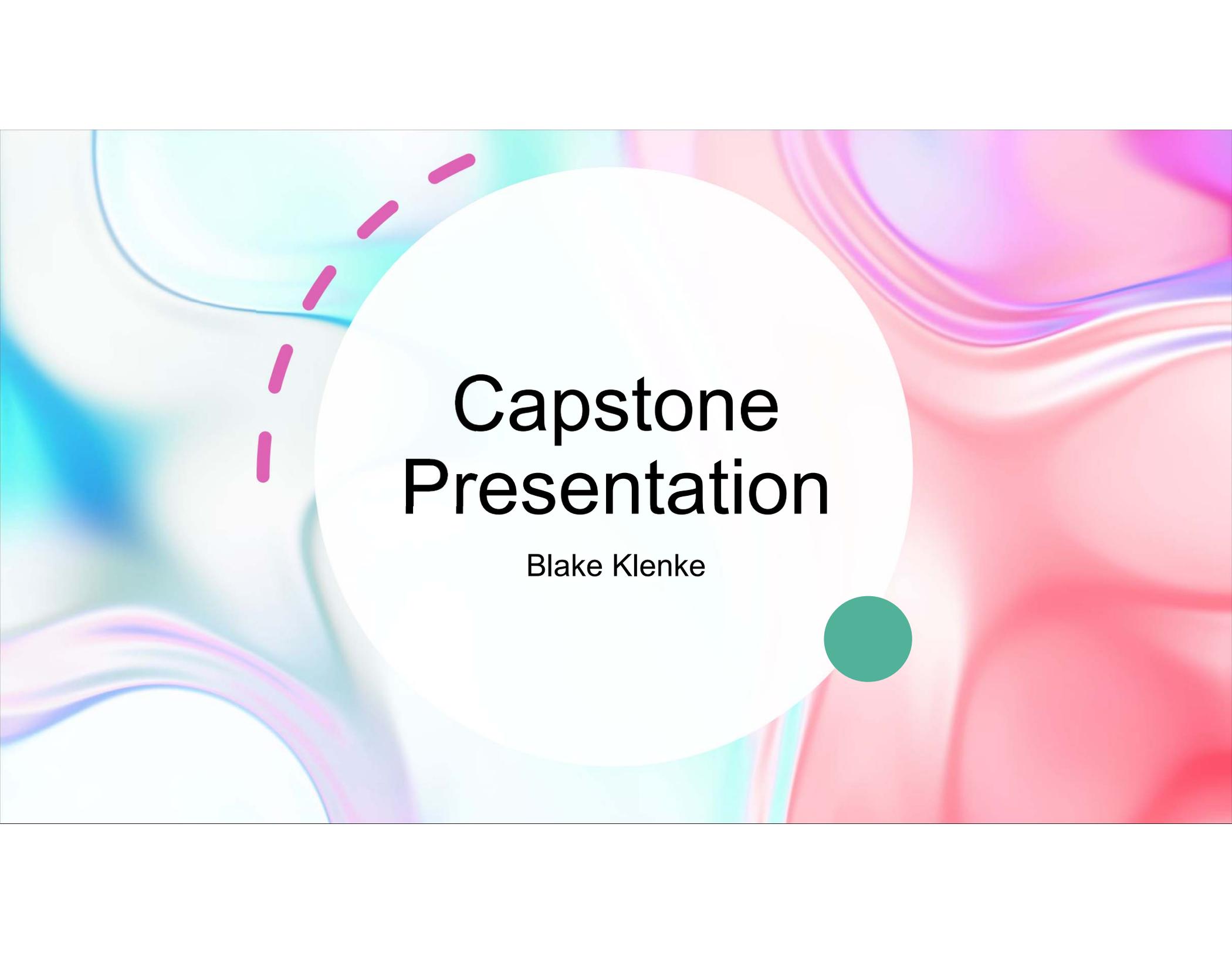
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Capstone Presentation

Blake Klenke



What is an SLP?

- Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. (ASHA)
- Service Delivery Areas:
 - Fluency
 - Speech Production
 - Language
 - **Cognition**
 - Voice
 - Resonance
 - Feeding/Swallowing
 - Auditory Rehabilitation





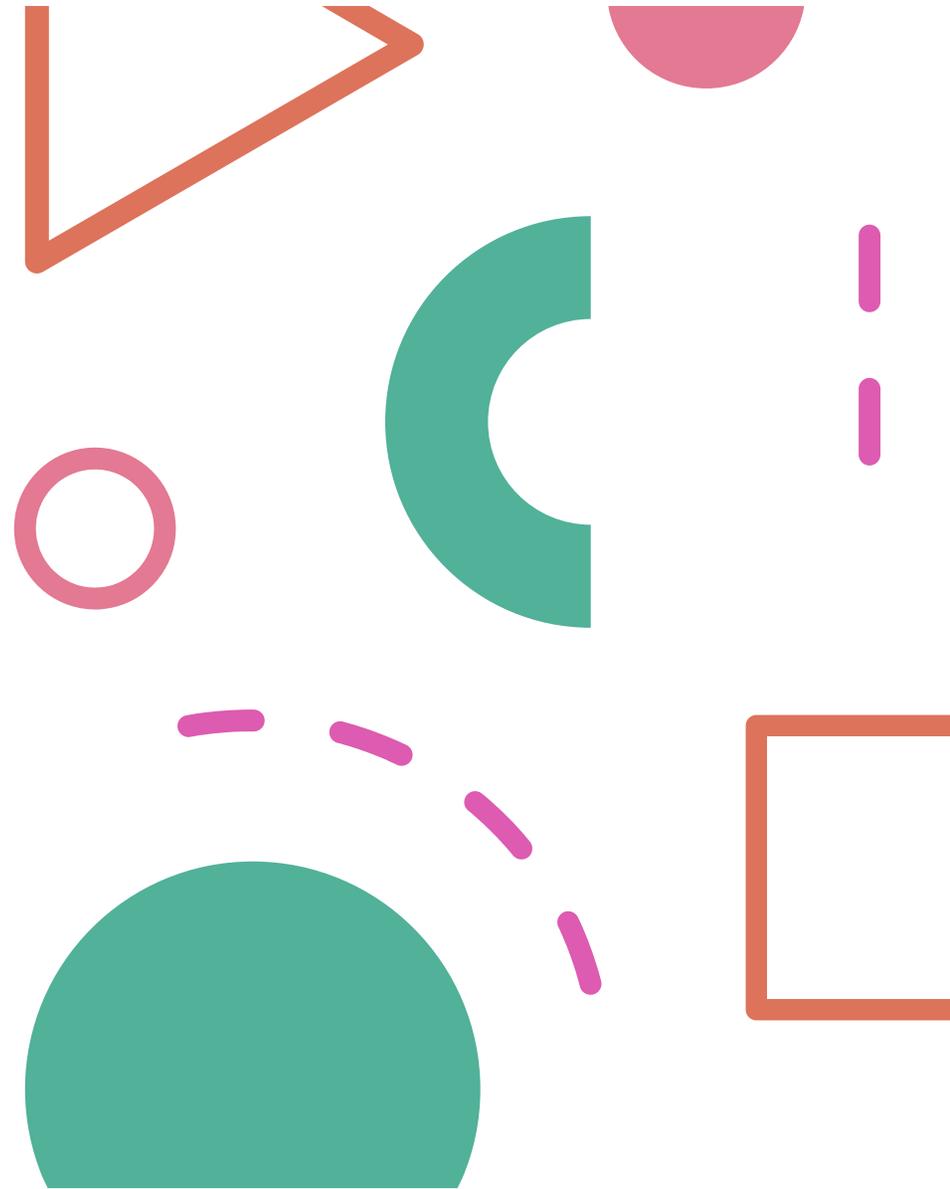
Case History

- Motor Vehicle Accident
 - TBI
- Variety of jobs
 - Shipping Factory
 - Construction
 - Graphic Design
- Expressed interest in improving reading comprehension



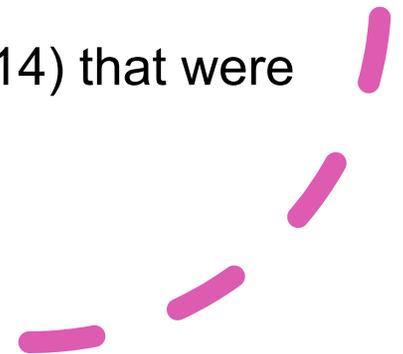
Therapy History

- Started at Eardley Clinic for Speech, Language and Hearing in Fall 2021
- Previous clinician recommended individual therapy to improve expressive language abilities



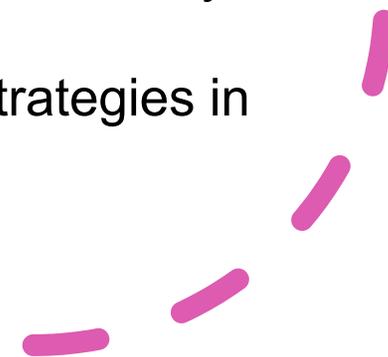
Treatment

- Client involved in **collaboration** to create goals
- Increase communicative confidence, cognitive functions of language, prepare to feel career-ready
- Reading Comprehension
 - Supported reading comprehension technique
 - Visual supports (Dietz et. al 2014) that were slowly scaffolded



Treatment (cont.)

- Memory/Recall Narrative Information
 - Spaced Retrieval Technique
 - “Spaced retrieval enabled [patients] to learn and use information in a functional manner which facilitated achievement of the speech-language therapy goals” (Brush & Camp, 1998).
- Functionally using skills in ADL
 - Direct instruction of reading and memory strategies
 - Tasked with employing these strategies in his ADL



Recommendations

- Growth in reading comprehension and memory while introducing strategies
- Continue individual speech-language therapy
 - Equip with more strategies and tools
 - Guided instruction to use these in ADL
 - Increase communicative confidence





Lessons Learned

- Cognitive changes affect more than just speech & language
 - Psychosocial elements: social connectedness, relationships, sense of self
- Education to caregivers on what TBI is AND what it isn't
- Erase the stigma
- Role as rehabilitation specialists
 - We are giving pieces of life back to them that they thought they lost
 - Collaboration in creating goals
 - Functional goals addressing the psychosocial elements





Lessons Learned (cont.)

- Change my communication style
 - SLOW DOWN!
- Adequate wait time
 - Don't jump in and help ASAP
 - Count to 10
- Build rapport with client
 - Goals can't get met without a connection to your client
 - You're asking them to be vulnerable, share about yourself too
 - Effective therapy includes comfort & trust





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