

Walking Together

Making our Way Along the Dementia Path

Session 2

Using a Holistic Approach

The following information has been gathered directly from key slides in this presentation.

Enhancing Joy G. Allen Power, MD (Slide 8)	 Identity Knowing the person well Connectedness Meaningful relationships Security Familiarity and trust Autonomy Choice and control Meaning Engagement in purposeful activities Growth Opportunities to continue
The Physical Environment (Slide 10)	 Is it warm and welcoming? Create a home-like environment. Offices and operational equipment are hidden. Is there easy access to independently maneuver including the outdoors when in a wheelchair or using a walker?
Flooring (Slide 12)	 Lighting Is it glare free? Flooring Is the pattern minimal to prevent distraction or confusion?
Environmental Cueing (Slide 11)	 Are there directional signs to assist in wayfinding? Leaving simple legible notes in a consistent location, can be helpful. Guest books can provide a helpful reminder of who has visited. Consider creating a designated location for items frequently lost.

Name Tags (Slide 14) To be worn by everyone	 First Name or Sister/Father 72 Font High Contrast is easier to read See Serif font such as Celibri or Arial
	San Serif font such as Calibri or Arial
Community Spaces (Slide 15)	 Create smaller spaces to make it more homelike. When possible, rooms should not be multipurpose. Determine ways to reduce noise levels. Create places to gather and talk.
Bedroom (Slide 16)	 Replicate previous bedroom when possible. Personalize the person's bedroom. Wall color should be not too dark or too light. Is lighting appropriate during the day and during the night? Is the sign on or near the door visible from the hall so the person can find their room?
Bathroom (Slide 17)	 Minimize storage to demonstrate the purpose of the bathroom. Contrast behind toilets and sink to make them easily visible. Determine if the bathroom is easily visible. Consider installing signs if person is having trouble finding the bathroom.
Outdoors (Slide 18)	 Vitamin D and being in nature are life enriching. Is there furniture that is easily accessible? Consider creating ways to encourage engagement with nature and each other.
Create a Culture of Support (Slide 19)	 Are your "Processes, Procedures and Rules" recognizing the individual? Are you allowing enough time for the person to be able to be as independent as possible? Consider what is a reasonable risk. As much as possible we want to be able to say "yes"
Care Partner Support (Slide 20)	 Is enough education provided? How can they be empowered? Consistent assignments improved quality of care. Engagement plans create consistency Support person before task Do with - not for - when possible!
Focus of Montessori Methods (Slide 23)	 Stay independent for as long as possible Enhance retained abilities Increase self-esteem Focus on what the person can do, not what they can't

Doing the Familiar (Slide 24)	 Connect to previous interests Normalizes the day by creating routine Anxiety and fear of failure are removed Doing something helps to structure time
To Support Engagement (Slide 25)	 Consider the creating of daily roles for the individual to encourage a sense of purpose. Individual calendars help to create structure in the day. Become curious about the distractions that could be occurring. Break down tasks into small steps.
Maria Montessori Quote (Slide 27)	"Joy, feeling one's own value, being appreciated and loved by others, feeling useful and capable of production are all factors of enormous value for the human soul."

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