



MONTESSORI-BASED DEMENTIA PROGRAMMING[®] ACTIVITY IDEAS

American Flag Puzzle

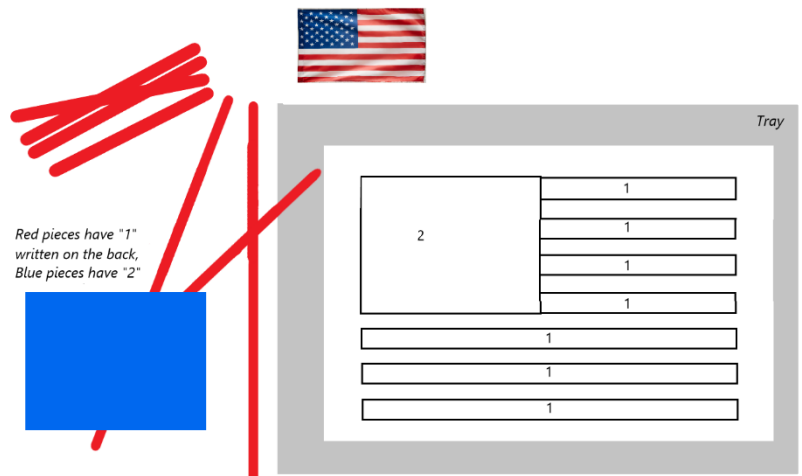
Here's an activity the family can do together over the holiday weekend that encourages intergenerational social interaction and motor skill practice, or one-on-one with a care partner. The cues support this as an independent activity as well. Invite participants to create the materials for this activity, for themselves or for others.

Materials

- One tray
- Picture of the American Flag
- One sheet of white craft foam with adhesive backing to use as background
- One sheet of dark blue craft foam (5.5" x 5"), with adhesive backing
- One sheet of red craft foam (12" x 5.25"). Cut into 7 strips (Three 12" x 0.75" + Four 6.5" x 0.75"), with adhesive backing still attached
- 50 gold teacher reward stars stickers or pre-punched white foam stars, divided between participants.

Set Up

- 1) Use a black marker to outline the spaces for red strips and blue star background.
- 2) Write "1" on the back of each red strip and write "2" on the back of each blue strip.
- 3) In the middle of the spaces for the red strips on the white foam, write the number "1". Write "2" in the white space for the blue star background piece.
- 4) Place the white craft foam sheet in the middle of the tray in front of participants.
- 5) Place the remaining items in separate piles near the tray



AMERICAN FLAG PUZZLE (continued)

Instructions

1. Ask participants to look at the picture of the flag and place it next to the tray.
2. Inform participants they will put puzzle pieces on top of the white background to make the flag.
3. Point out the red strips and blue piece.
4. Ask one of the participants to hand you the blue piece for the star background.
5. Turn the piece over and ask participants to tell you the number on the reverse side.
6. Ask participants to show you that same number on the white background sheet.
7. Demonstrate how to remove the adhesive backing.
8. Place the blue star background piece in place on the white sheet.
9. Invite participants to take turns doing the same with red strips until all have been secured on the white base.
10. Demonstrate how to affix a star to the blue background, then ask them to finish doing the rest.



NOTE: Some of the red strips will be shorter than others. Bring this to the participants' attention before proceeding with red strip placement.



Extensions

- Prepare questions on a patriotic theme (For example: On what holidays do we display the flag? Over what buildings do we see the American flag flying? What are some ways that people celebrate the 4th of July? And so on) and lead a discussion as the participants complete the puzzle.

Horizontal Programming

- Have the participants fit different sized pictures on one page of a scrap book.
- Have the participants complete other simple puzzles together or more complex ones.
- Have the participants work together on a mosaic by completing a picture that has been outlined in thick black marker lines. Participants can use white glue that dries clear to affix various shapes and colors of tissue paper in the spaces. The completed activity will appear to be stained glass and can be hung in a window as a sun catcher.
- Complete a calendar for the week or month using different colors for each day/week.

AMERICAN FLAG PUZZLE (continued)

Vertical Programming

DOWNWARD EXTENSION

- Have the participants do one step at a time. For example, they might separate different colors of items into separate piles or hand you one item while you ask where it should be placed on the white background sheet.

UPWARD EXTENSION

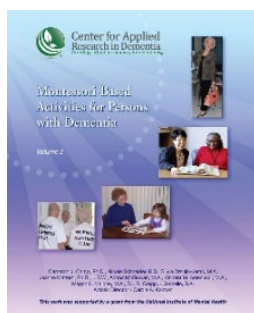
- Ask the participants to name or sing a patriotic song or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Demonstrate the proper way to fold and display an American flag and then have the participants either help you or do it themselves.
- Ask participants what they like to do on the 4th of July and write a story together about it.

Problems and Solutions

P: Participants are having difficulty following the multiple steps required to complete the task.

S: Have the participants do the activity one step at a time. After they complete each step, you can cue them on the next.

S: Have the participants supervise while you complete the puzzle.



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