

MONTESSORI-BASED DEMENTIA PROGRAMMING[®] ACTIVITY IDEAS

Place Setting

From "Montessori-Based Activities for Persons with Dementia, Volume 1"

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Activities that involve caring for the environment are designed to engage participants by enabling them to act upon their environment and giving them responsibility for the care of things around them.

Purpose

Develop both fine motor and gross motor skills; Develop hand-eye coordination skills;
Enhance skills needed to set up and recognize table settings

Materials to make your own

- One tray
- Colored paper
- Clear contact paper
- One plastic place setting
- The place setting includes a dinner plate, fork, knife, spoon, and a drinking glass
- Glue
- A basket to hold place setting materials



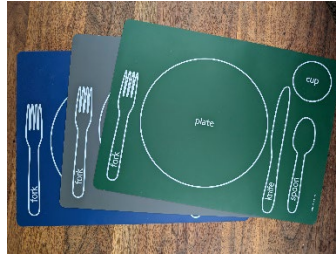
Set Up

1. Cut out shapes of each piece in the place setting using a different color for each item.
2. Glue the colored shapes to the tray in the form of an orderly placed setting.
3. Cover the entire tray with clear contact paper.
4. Put the place setting items in the basket and set the basket next to the tray.

Continued on next page

PLACE SETTING (continued)

*Shop for pre-made, dishwasher-safe
[Montessori Placemats in the CARD Store](#)*



Instructions

1. Put the tray and basket in front of the participants.
2. Show the participants the place setting.
3. Take out the fork from the basket and indicate the similarity between the fork shape on the tray and the actual fork.
4. Place the fork in its appropriate spot on the tray on top of the paper shape of the fork.
5. Invite the participants to place the rest of the items, handing items one at a time to participants, until the place setting is completed.
6. Encourage participants to move from left to right in choosing objects to put on the tray.
7. Invite the participants to help put the items back into the basket when the activity is completed.

Extensions

Using real silverware instead of plastic silverware can add to the aesthetic sense of the activity. However, watch participants carefully when using real silverware, since it is sharper and may cause injury.

Horizontal Programming

Have participants sort a basket full of utensils into their own separate categories (forks go in one slot, spoons in another, etc).

PLACE SETTING (continued)

Vertical Programming

DOWNWARD EXTENSION

- Start by placing utensils over all but one or two shapes and then invite participants to finish.
- If they cannot hold utensils, let them direct you by voice or by pointing to where utensils go.

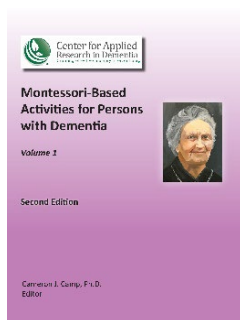
UPWARD EXTENSION

- Do the activity on a tray that does not have shapes on it.
- Try setting a real table after the participants master the activity.

Problems and Solutions

P: The participants match the item to the wrong place.

S: Invite the participants to look closely at the shape and the item. Ask the participants if the shapes match. If they say no, encourage them to find the shape that does match the object. If they were to say yes, ask them if the shapes match once again. If they still say yes, check to determine if they have visual deficits or if they no longer recognize shapes and or objects used in eating. (Don't correct them but allow them to self-correct.)



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