

Creating A Dementia Friendly Environment

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Here is a sample of a modification plan for a secured neighborhood.

Introduction

Research shows residents with dementia tend to follow landmarks throughout their environment. The more appealing the landmarks the easier for residents with cognitive impairment to identify and path find with reduced anxiety and exit seeking. Environmental modifications can be customized and fun to create. Here are a few ideas which can decrease over stimulation, exit seeking, and create familiarity while providing residents with interactive areas.

Objectives

Modifications can promote resident engagement in activities they have enjoyed in the past, or new activities. Research shows that residents with dementia recognize and associate with certain colors which can have different effects on moods and orientation to environment.

- Blues and purples would be utilized in high traffic areas as they have a calming effect to help reduce exit seeking anxiety.
- Reds and oranges would be utilized at interactive areas as they increase brain wave activity to help stimulate active participation in meaningful activities.

Goal

The goal of modifying neighborhoods where residents with cognitive impairments live is to enhance the physical and social environments which in return can improve quality of life, possibly reduce the need for psychotropic medications and frequency of negative behaviors. In return, this can help residents to progress through any cognitive disease process with comfort, joy, and dignity.



Customized Resident Room Doorways
(creating familiarity using colors and individual identifiers)



Interactive Garden Walls



Awnings at Nurse's Station



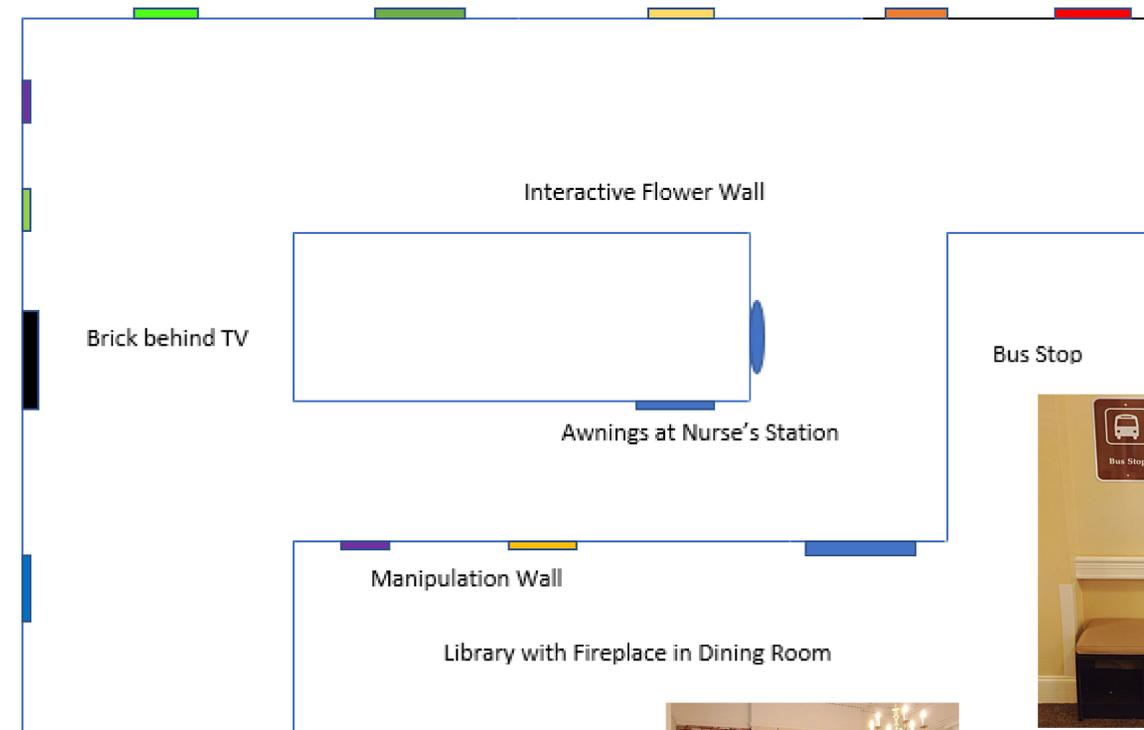
Exit Door
(decrease exit seeking)
Add textures to horse for sensory



Brick Wall behind TV



Entrance Door & Lavender Wall
(decrease exit seeking)



Wall beside Exit Door
(ties into barn/horse)



Bus Stop
(sitting/waiting area next to dining room entrance)



Sensory Activity Wall
(path finding beads, keys/locks, steering wheel etc...)



Library with Fireplace in Dining Room

Conclusion

Environmental modifications can add up financially. Funding help can be obtained from: FLAG Awards, fundraising, and local/state grants.