

Stages of Dementia

| Early Stages | Middle Stages | Late Stages |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Something seems to be different about the resident, but the changes are subtle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The changes in the resident have become more obvious and are affecting their day-to-day functioning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The resident's abilities have declined dramatically. |
| <p>The resident may:</p> | <p>The resident may:</p> | <p>The resident may:</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Seem forgetful ◆ Be irritable or sad ◆ Have trouble with words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Have significant problems with memory, especially for recent events ◆ Be irritable or sad ◆ Need help with daily tasks, such as bathing, dressing, and taking medications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Have little or no memory ◆ Be unable to use words properly ◆ Be unable to use the toilet independently ◆ Not recognize you or family members |
| <p>You can help by:</p> | <p>You can help by:</p> | <p>You can help by:</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Making requests one at a time ◆ Making requests slow and clearly ◆ Providing friendly reminders ◆ Starting pleasant conversations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Using simple words ◆ Guiding the resident through the necessary tasks ◆ Speaking in a kind and reassuring tone of voice ◆ Discussing pleasant memories with the resident ◆ Starting pleasant conversations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increasing your level of involvement ◆ Using simple words ◆ Speaking in a kind and reassuring tone; speak slowly ◆ Using gentle body language and proceeding calmly ◆ Bringing up happy events from the resident's past ◆ Starting pleasant conversations and chat with the resident even if they are unable to vocally respond |

Adapted with permission from Teri, L., Huda, P., Gibbons, L., Young, H., & van Leynseele, J. (2005). STAR: A dementia-specific training program for staff in assisted living residences. Gerontologist, 45, 686-693.