

DALE & DEBORAH SMITH CENTER FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH & TREATMENT

BEYOND THE MEDICAL CENTER

"Nonpharmacological Activities"

Debbie Kuhns Program Director April 5, 2024

SIU MEDICINE

DALE & DEBORAH SMITH CENTER FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH & TREATMENT

SMITH ALZHEIMER'S CENTER

- Since 1986, Smith Alzheimer's Center has provided clinical care, research and community programs for Illinois families with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementa
- One of three state designated Regional Alzheimer Disease Centers in the State of Illinois
- Since 2018, the Smith Alzheimer's Center has received more than \$7.2 million in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health, used for research and services for dementia patients and their families
- In the past year, the Center, along with its Memory and Aging Network, has served more than 4,000 patients and their familie



SMITH ALZHEIMER CENTER

3-pronged approach

- Researchers
- Medical Team
- Beyond the Medical Center Programs









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Nonpharmacological Approaches

- Improve the quality of life
- Provides opportunities for person with memory loss to connect to others
- Provides opportunities for caregivers to connect with others
- Evidence based activities





- Music and Memory
- Art Express
- Early Stage Memory Loss Group
- MIND Diet Cooking Classes
- Minds in Motion
- Stepping Up
- Lego Serious Play
- Dementia Caregiving 101



Music and Memory

- Music can stimulate deep emotional recall
- Memories from earlier years can be well preserved
- Favorite music associated with important personal events or eras can trigger memory of lyrics
- Experiences or emotions that were connected to music are retrieved
- Music can help calms the chaotic brain activity and enables the listener to focus on the present moment





Art Express

- Scientific Evidence
- Art enhances brain function
- Impacts brain wave patterns and emotions, the nervous system, and raises serotonin levels
- Art can change a person's outlook and the way they experience the world
- Looking at and making art increases blood flow to the brain
- Art affects the part of the brain that is related to pleasure





Art Express





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Art Express





Minds in Motion

- Evidence Based Program
- Goal is to improve or maintain mental, physical and emotional well-being
- Activities include:
- Brain Games
- Creative Activities
- Art
- Music
- Socialization
- Chair Yoga





Minds in Motion - Agenda Example

- Chair Yoga
- St. Patrick's Day Trivia
- St. Patrick's Day Memories Discussion
- Paint Shamrocks
- Tic-Tac-Toe
- Lunch
- Bingo
- Word Search





Minds in Motion







Stepping Up

- Evidence based
- The activities in Stepping Up are designed to improve flexibility, strength, endurance, balance and are customized to each participant's specific needs and abilities
- Stepping Up is for persons with memory loss and their care partners
- The focus is on fitness and fun, and includes group movement to music and exercises





Stepping Up









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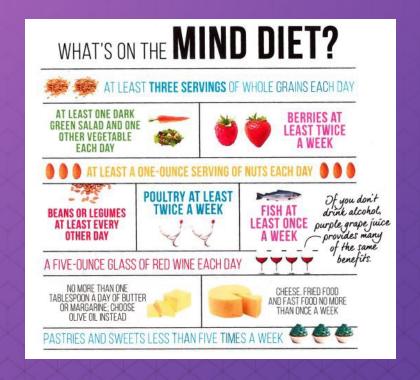
Early Stage Memory Loss Group

- 15-session supportive group for persons with early stage memory loss and their caregivers
- Sessions are led by Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU Medicine professionals, and feature expert information and advice for both persons with memory loss and their families
- At each meeting, the entire group meets for an educational session followed by separate support group sessions, one for persons with memory loss and one for family caregivers





- MIND Diet Cooking Classes
- Stacy Sattovia, MD, SIU Culinary Medicine
- Charlyn Ware, RD, SIU School of Medicine





MIND Diet Cooking Classes







Lego Serious Play Group





DEMENTIA CAREGIVING 101

- Alzheimer's Facts
- Diagnosing and Treating Alzheimer's
- Behaviors of Alzheimer Patients
- Communication Skills
- Driving
- Legal, Medical and Financial Planning
- The Team Approach
- Meaningful Activities
- Caregiver Fatigue





OTHER RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Discussion of past and/or present events
- Word games
- Puzzles crossword, word search, sudoku, jigsaw



Spiritual – church, gospel songs





OTHER RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Indoor gardening
- Creative activities baking, crafting, sewing
- Socialization
- Memory card games
- Memorizing information/listsi.e. grocery lists, bible verses,recipe cards





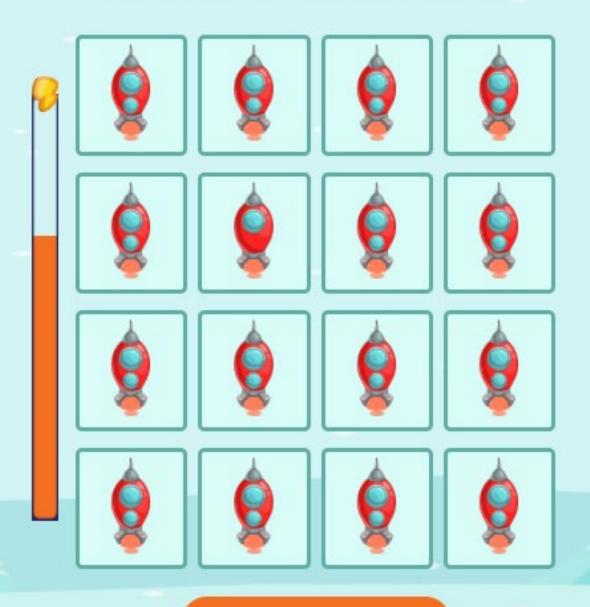
OTHER RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Pattern detection games
- Use of touch screen games to increase thinking speed
- Board games
- Dance
- > Art
- > Music





Spot the odd one out







change level

Difficulty: O Easy

Medium

Hard

Very Hard

Genius



Which number is behind the green circle?

27

24

29

19

34

37



References

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