

What to do When Behavior Changes

Practical Information on Dementia in People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)



When Someone is Upset

- Offer a soothing activity or comforting object.
- Validate their feelings and reassure the person.
- Allow the person to pace in a safe area.
- Remain calm and speak to the person in a reassuring voice.



Safety First

- Be alert for wandering.
- Ensure that medications are taken correctly.
- Lock medications in a safe place to avoid accidents.
- Be on the lookout for seizures. Report concerns to the health care provider.



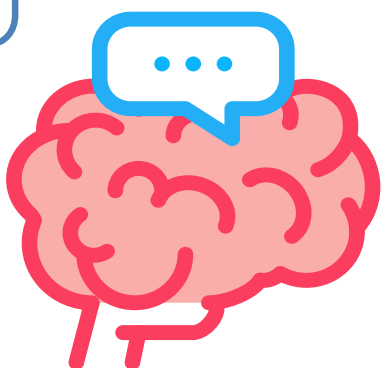
Prevention: How to Speak with Someone

- Don't argue with the person, even if they say something you know isn't true. "Go Along" with what they're saying.
- Speak simply, clearly and with respect.



Prevention: How to Manage the Environment

- Reduce noise and distractions.
- Scan the area for clutter and other fall risks.
- Provide adequate lighting.
- Offer activities earlier in the day.
- Set routines.



Remember!

The behaviors are not on purpose. Changes in the person's brain are causing the behavior.

Developed in collaboration with: