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Permission to speak: encouraging conversations 12

Activity sessions can make a big impact on individuals in any setting, especially when well facilitated. Jennifer Bray says that facilitators have a highly skilled role that should not be underestimated

Recognising delirium: a vital skill for all involved in care 14

Delirium is a medical emergency, yet it sometimes goes unrecognised. In the second of our series on good practice in hospital dementia care, Vicki Leah gives guidance on identifying its characteristics and how they can be distinguished from those of dementia

Practical and adaptable dementia-friendly design 16

When it was rated "requires improvement" by the CQC, Quarry House care home decided on a design overhaul. Geoff Crocker and Peter Kevern describe the process

Communication: the Bouncing Balls workshop 18

How do you show care home staff the impact of communication difficulties on people with dementia? Helen Moores-Poole says the "Bouncing Balls" workshop is a simple and powerful way to convey the message

Recruitment and retention 21

Recruiting staff to fill vacant posts has become number one priority for many care homes. Chris Elsley asks what the problem is

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Evaluation of Active Minds activity kits in care homes 22

Activity kits can improve engagement and wellbeing among care home residents, as Simon Evans and colleagues found. But they discovered other benefits too, such as responding to stress and distress, promoting conversation, and more person-centred care

What works in dementia education and training? 26

How can training in dementia care best be delivered to health and social care staff? Claire Surr and colleagues report on the findings of a major study that set out to discover what works in providing dementia education for the workforce

'It's building up a picture that's the problem' 30

Posterior cortical atrophy is one of the rarer types of young onset dementia, initially affecting vision while often leaving memory intact. Teresa Nahajski and Helen Scott set out a collage of carers' comments giving an insight into the condition

Behaviours that challenge: the 5-step approach 32

Distressed behaviours among people with dementia can pose a serious challenge for staff. Tina Kukstas describes the "5 step approach", which translates complex guidance on person-centred strategies into a more accessible format

Front cover and photos on pp22-25: thanks to Simon Evans and colleagues, Active Minds and everyone involved in producing, using and evaluating the Activity Kits described here.



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