

Montessori Report Summary

When I took the initial Montessori 2 day training class I was very excited because the principles of the class were all based on values that we practiced at the Alzheimer Outreach Services Day Program. Failure free, meaningful and person centered were always in our vocabulary. Listening to Gail during those classes confirmed we were on the right track. The ideas in the class helped us expand our program. It helped us think outside of the box when we were planning activities and trying to meet each clients needs.

When I started the certification process I was excited when I started to fill out the forms for each client. I realized that our Social workers had acquired all the information I needed during the clients initial assessment. It made my job a little easier, but it reminded me how much information we had on each client. The resources we had at our finger tips when we were trying to deal with challenging behaviours, or when we were trying to come up with person centered activities that information was all there.

Each one of the clients that I picked were very interesting people and the information I had, made it easy to adapt the activities around them. Each Lady was not sure if they wanted to be a part of the program for a variety of reasons. As soon as activities were offered that interested them, their anxieties, worries and concerns about being at the program disappeared. Each lady had wonderful skills that could be utilized at the level that they were currently functioning at.

Since each client eventually came to love the program, their happiness was noticed by the other clients and they then played leadership roles in keeping the other clients engaged and comfortable in the day program setting. It was a win win situation for everyone. They ended up helping with programs each day with their kindness towards other, their past experiences were part of the program and helped keep the program very professional and cognitively stimulating to the others.

I also have found that there are so many ways to present the same activity and make sure that it is presented at the correct level for each group. Again, the failure free part is very important for every client. Most clients know that things have changed for them and in the failure free environment; I find that their comfort levels increase and they end up engaging in the programs because they can answer the question, play the adapted game or participate in an art program on a level that they can still enjoy.

It will be exciting to share these concepts with other co-workers, families and volunteers and to continue to build our resources with in our unit.

Thank –you for letting me be a part of this process.

Joanne Hipwell