



## Excellence in Action

### Dementia Care on Our Mind A success story from our Shreveport, LA Team



We have been working to increase the effectiveness of our therapy with residents who have dementia. We learned the Allen Cognitive Levels and what a person's abilities are at each level, as well as the communication strategies and therapeutic interventions that are most appropriate at each stage, from mild cognitive impairment to end stage dementia.

***"Dementia education impacts each person that interacts with a resident and every aspect of a plan of care."***

#### Since completing the training, here are some of the changes we've made:

- Simplifying our language and number steps with instructions, and allowing more time for processing instructions (even when the pause feels awkward)
- Working with staff to keep residents occupied with meaningful tasks so they are not alone and anxious, wanting to get up, which could cause falls
- Catering therapy to patients' interests (incorporating bird sounds and a bird feeder to task into therapy activities to keep a patient who likes birds engaged)
- PT/PTA reporting - giving better, clearer information to patient (what they want them to do, where they are going, eye contact) and gaining agreement before ambulating or transferring

Dementia education impacts each person that interacts with a resident and every aspect of a plan of care. Dementia intervention, the Allen Cognitive Levels, and tips on how to better help residents with dementia, can be found in our JBS Clinical Resources and TMC University Training Trax for the More Than a Memory Program.

***Stay tuned for next month's Excellence in Action Story from more of our teams in the field!***