

# What to do when no one is in activities



Denise Wingard ADC  
Country Lane Gardens

[dwingard@countrylaneghc.com](mailto:dwingard@countrylaneghc.com)

Cell 740-503-1344

Activities can not be there 24/7  
With call offs and staffing issues there  
is more times than ever before when  
Activities is not in the building

Although the residents probably would  
love you to be there 24/7

Activities can (and should) occur at any time and are not limited to formal activities staff.

Reflect on your own activities at home  
how many are formal and planned?

Strongly encourage all staff to engage in  
unscheduled activities

Activity staff are not the only ones that can do  
activities

But I'm not the activities director!"

## COMMUNICATION

It is important to communicate – without communication there is confusion



One building I know has an activity communication book – this book is placed at the nurse's station – they use a bright pink notebook – the charge nurse checks it every day and the activity director leaves a brief note letting nursing staff know they will not be in the building or any changes in activities -- This is also used by nursing staff to activities when they find things that activity staff needs to know. The activity staff also check this book.






A valuable way to communicate is to be able to thank staff for something they've done, something specific – always remember to thank the staff that help you – if you appreciate them, they will help even more



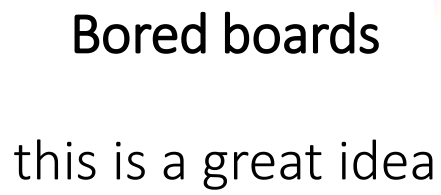
What are ways that you communicate to staff to let them know there will be no one there from activities or changes in activities???



Something to leave staff in the resident's closet – staff will get to know the residents – they do not have time to look at assessments or look at care plans – you can even encourage staff to find out more about the residents – and perhaps enter them in a drawing for something special

<b>All about ME</b>		Name	
Favorite Candy	Pets 	Hobbies	
Favorite Place	Favorite movie/TV Family Brothers? Sisters? Oldest, youngest or middle? 		
	Favorite Color		
Favorite Music	Your Birthday	Favorite Books to read	
			
Favorite Vacation	Favorite Subject in School	Favorite Food	
			

You can even add other items and put it behind the closet door – communicate to staff that this exists – perhaps at an all staff – Activities is not just for Activity staff



What do you put on your bored boards  
 ?????????????????????????????????



### **Activity packets**

put together activity packets for the residents  
 if you have activity connections it is filled with  
 things to make these packets  
 Daily chronicles are fun, and the residents enjoy it  
 There are other fun free sites to go on too just  
 google it

### **What is a Memory Box?**

Rummage, Memory or Sensory boxes are containers filled with everyday objects to assist people living with dementia to interact, communicate and reminisce. These activities can also be a soothing form of distraction.

The boxes are created to cater for individual needs or for the general use of residents. The aim is to offer failure free, gentle stimulation of sight, sound, taste, smell, touch and movement in a controlled environment. Have an area you can place these so staff can use them

Utilize and activity corner  
like the bord board leave things for staff to do  
activities  
decks of cards  
card decks of games (flippo, Uno etc..)  
family games (LRC, Yahtzee, Fargo etc..)  
coloring items (crayons, markers, pencils)



## IDEAS

Staff to put movies in – but they need  
directions and movies –

The more you have ready for the staff the  
better

Find a resident that can be “in Charge”  
they can pass out packets - give staff the  
movie – and so on

Share your ideas if we have time???

