Wayfinding can be defined as...

“The system of navigation that enables individuals to find their way quickly and easily within an environment”

and that templates that look like glass-covered, double doors, since this is a well-learned behaviour that helps people with dementia.

The implementation of wayfinding signage and directional arrows and environmental cues will help people with dementia more effectively find things and locations. Also, signs will help decrease responsive behaviors, while contributing to increased functional capacity, independence and enhance self-esteem and daily living.

The findings from the questionnaire revealed that qualitative observations by recorded by the PMSC. Observations also collected observational details regard-

The details from the questionnaires were complimented by interview conducted to examine changes in behaviour related to wayfinding.

Research Questions

A. Will the use of wayfinding signage and environmental cues within the home help support memory, and assist with independence for those living with dementia?

B. Will the use of wayfinding signage and environmental cues help ease the burden on family/informal caregivers?

C. Will the use of wayfinding signage and environmental cues positively impact responsive behaviour(s)?

METHODOLOGY

This research consisted of a one-way dyad study, where two populations were studied. The primary participant in this study was the family member/informal caregiver (FM/IC). The second population studied was the person with dementia (PWD). The family member with dementia was the second population studied.

The family member with dementia was the second population studied. Indirectly, through observations made by the PMSC. A series of qualitative research questions, in the form of post-study and post-questionnaire studies, were conducted to examine changes in behaviour related to wayfinding signage, directional arrows and other environmental cues that were implemented in the person’s home.

Total # of Participants: 9 families (initially 17 families were involved; 8 families had to drop out for various reasons).

Participants were recruited through posters & presentations conducted to examine changes in behaviour related to wayfinding.

The details from the questionnaires were complimented by qualitative observations recorded by the PMSC. Observations also collected observational details regarding how the cues were being used in the home.

Effect Considerations:

The research reported ethically. All participants were informed in writing of their rights as a participant, potential benefits and risks of this study, confidentiality and their right to withdraw. To respect the choice of the participant with dementia, a letter of information and assent was provided prior to participating in the study. There are no conflicts of interest present in this study.

DISCUSSIONS

Themes

The cues enhance independence

Wayfinding can be defined as a systematic navigation task that people with dementia need to use the signs is important as well as consistent reinforcement to ensure they continue to be used.

Resistance to signs (especially for the toilet.

Less is more” philosophy, with all signs tailored to needs. No other markings should interfere with what is being seen. People with dementia.

Design Features in Environmental Cuing:

Cues require relationship with people. Specific wording and language as per individual needs. Visibility and legibility of signage (vision assessment prior to implementing signs).

Innovations in Wayfinding: Using Signage for People Living with Dementia

Authors: Jocelyn Hunt, BA, Barb McCoy, RN, BA, GNC(c), Gail Elliot, BSc, MA, Kate Ducak, MA, PCG, PhD(c)

A Study Supported by a New Horizons, Grant and the Alzheimer Society of Canada, Hamilton, Halton, Haldimand Norfolk and Brant

This project funded in part by the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program.

BACKGROUND AND HYPOTHESIS

To focus on discovering whether environmental cues such as directional arrows that point to rooms (e.g., "living room") and templates that look like glass-covered, double doors, since this is a well-learned behaviour that helps people with dementia.

Wayfinding can be defined as…

Wayfinding needs to be connected to the abilities of those who

ensuring the use of wayfinding and environmental cueing is more successful at finding things and locations (Charness and Rainville, et al., 2010).

Environmental strategies can help decrease responsive

people with dementia experience an altered sensitivity to

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