

HOPE Dementia Support Groups Mary Ann's Babies



Doll /Pet therapy involves offering dolls/pets to adults who are living with dementia and other medical conditions with the goal of improving their comfort, engagement, and quality of life. Doll/Pet therapy is typically used for people who are in the middle or late stages of dementia.

Benefits include:

- Increased smiling
- A decrease in challenging behaviors
- Enhanced feelings of purpose by serving as a caregiver for something
- Non-pharmacologic way to address challenging emotions and behaviors
- No medication side effects or drug interactions
- Distraction and comfort

Pros and Cons of Doll Therapy in Dementia
The Research Behind Doll Therapy in Alzheimer's Disease
By Esther Heerema, MSW

Assessment

Person with Memory Loss _____

Care Partner _____

Contact Number _____

Has this person had close, nurturing relationships with: (Circle all that apply)

1. Male infant
2. Female Infant
3. Pets (Indicate type-cats, dogs, etc) _____

What is prompting your interest in providing a doll/pet for this individual?

Are there particular struggles currently affecting this individual that you hope doll/pet therapy will decrease?

Do you or others have concerns about the use of doll/pet therapy?

Follow Up (Staff/Care Partner to complete section below)

Contact made _____ Date _____

Support Needed _____

Doll Provided _____